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Sailor's Letters.

Robt WRITTEN TO HIS *Montgomery*

SELECT FRIENDS IN ENGLAND,

1754 DURING HIS

VOYAGES and TRAVELS

Branden

EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, and AMERICA.

FROM THE YEAR 1754 to 1759.

BY

EDWARD THOMPSON,

LIEUTENANT OF THE NAVY.

In Two VOLUMES.

D U B L I N :

Printed by J. HOEY, *sen.* Skinner-row, and
J. POTTS, at *Swift's-Head* in Dame-street.

MDCCLXX.

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T O
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL OF EGMONT,
VISCOUNT PERCEVAL OF KANTURK,
LORD LOVEL, AND HOLLAND
OF ENMORE;
FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY,
F. R. S. &c. &c.

These Letters are, with the most profound
respect, inscribed,

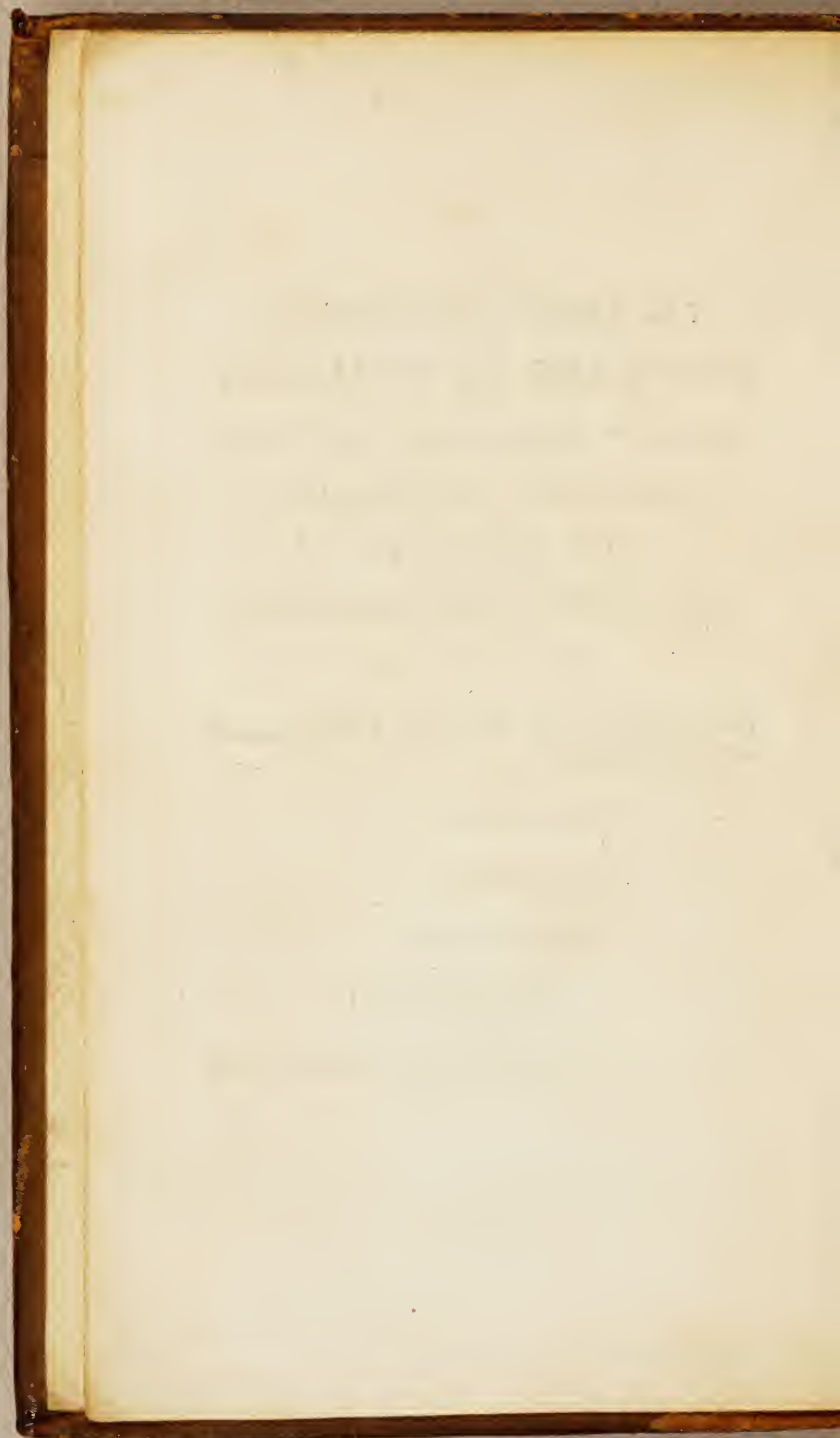
By his Lordship's

Most obedient,

Most devoted,

Humble Servant,

EDWARD THOMPSON.



PROLOGOMENA.

PROSE Preface precedes books in verse,
As mutes parade before a hearse :
But here, to change the mode, I chose
With rhyme to introduce my prose.
At BATH thus *Derrick*, the poetical,
Leads out in minuet geometrical.
So flow'ry Prologues strew the way,
And help sometimes a heavy play.
If this should have that good effect,
And save my Bark from being wreck'd
Or should the truths amuse an hour
Some HELEN under some sweet bower ;
Or save a youth first bound to sea,
From that fell rock, low company !
They'll answer every wish'd intent,
The POET and the *Sailor* meant.

And now in form let me proceed,
And tell the reader, what he'll read.

DE FOE the trav'ler of his time,
 Form'd Crusoe and a favourite clime;
 Which fancy oft in days of yore
 Had sought, but never found before.
 SWIFT caught the flame,--and with more ease,
 Rais'd wonders as he cross'd the seas:
 Language he gave a sorrel nag,
 And giants formed for *Brobdignag*.
 All Lilliput was made by Swift,——
Truth was the Dean's peculiar gift.——
 But here you'll find as strange as true,
 The Author and the Sailor too.——
 To this, from injured RALEIGH's time,
 Few Tars have writ in prose or rhyme.——
 A *Guinea-pig* I first was ta'en,
 And far as *India* cut the main.
 (A'prenticeship to make a tar;)
 Next press'd on board a man of war:
 Where I unknown at any college,)
 Studied sev'n years and got no knowledge:
 Nay what is more surprizing still,
 At Hampstead bred.---not Pindus Hill.
 Ne'er by the *Muses* honoured yet,
 To drink Bohea, or play picquet
 Ne'er sung with VIRGIL epic lays,
 Nor laugh'd with MARTIAL nights and days;
 With HORACE ne'er was asked to dine,
 Or taste his pure Falernian wine;
 Nor upon OVID cast an eye,
 Tho' he lov'd Love as well as I:

Ne'er

Ne'er swam with HERO to LEANDER,
 Nor play'd with TERENCE or MENANDER :
 And yet I've had a wond'rous scope,---
 But all beyond the *Cape of Hope*.

When I describe a little man,
 Him I have seen in *Indostan* ;
 Or tell of monsters large or small,
 Behold the natives of *Bengal*.

A *burning Wife* may raise your grief,
 Or stagger for a time belief ; ---
 Truth will in all the facts agree,
 So *Utrum mavis*,---- accipe.

'Tis no surprize---a drowned woman
 Above bridge and below is common.
 The Elephant sagacious creature,
 May raise surprize in every feature ;
 Although DAN POPE, half reasoning terms it ;
 And *Bishop Warburton* confirms it ;
 Wisdom you must allow the beast, ---
 Ay, half as much as bard or priest,
 The stone at top of mount *Hammamell*,
 Perhaps you'll call or whale or camel ;
 Think as you will --- but if you doubt,
 The place itself will point it out.

My Muse a *Will-o-wisp* will seem
 To you who wander but in Dream :
 In Indian climes you find her first,
 Panting poor wench ! quite choak'd with
 thirst ;

Then,

Then, like a bird of passage stems
 The air, and swims the river Ems :
 Next with new pinions she defies
 Those storms that cloud the western skies.
 Quick to AMERICA she wings,
 And of TOBAGO's hermit sings.
 She then whirls with this whirling ball,
 And weeps o'er LISBON's dreadful fall.

Readers ! these trips call what you please,
 When very young she cros'd the seas.
 Forgive, my Friends the Muse's youth,
 She never leaps the bounds of truth !
 If prose and rhyme alas should jar,
 She's half a poet, half a tar.
 Half fish, half flesh, ee'n what you will,---
 Bred to the *Bow-lines*, not the *Quill*.
 Should you not find some pleasing letter,
 Pity the tar, and wish them better.
 For it was never known before,
 That Miss THALIA trowsers wore.

*Cætera desiderantur.



LETTERS.

LETTER I.

To H. M. Esq ;

At sea, April 1754.

AFTER a melancholy tedious confinement to sky and water, the eye is at last eased with the sight of a ship bound to you, and though a structure of a similar appearance, yet it affords some relief, and much pleasure, as it may be the happy means of this reaching your hands. 'Till this, sir, the abilities and experience of age never appeared clearly to me to be superior to youth---I now distinctly see where I was partial and opinionated, and when I ought to have embraced your advice, where I rejected it. I've often wondered to myself how you came by that perfect knowledge of a sea-life, for although in theory, yet described in so lively a manner, to equal the most horrid parts of practice--But
alas !

alas ! dear sir, it is in vain to repent ; I must go on, though your descriptions of *doubling the Cape*, are enough just now to damp that, which, o'er a winter's fire, served only to stir a passion I could wish had ever lain dormant. But hitherto our passage has been tolerable though boisterous,-----but pleasant, when a man can think like a seaman, that his greatest blessing is a fair wind. But surely great allowance must be made for such extravagancies of thought, when every hope of a sailor hangs on the wings of the wind.----Nothing can load them with that dejection of spirit as a still calm, and calms are sometimes in these southern latitudes so tedious, as even to occasion a putrefaction of the sea. In these climes, when every thing seems to lose motion with the air, the ships are generally visited by sharks. The taking one of these monsters has been the unhappy occasion of one of the most terrible scenes I ever beheld.----Miss H. a young lady of beauty, virtue, and good sense, going to Bombay, and betrothed by her parents in England to a gentleman of the council in India, too eagerly beholding one of these creatures out of her cabin window, fell over board and was drowned : tho' all immediate assistance was given, yet every endeavour was in vain to save this amiable lady, who perished in an unnatural element, though serene and

(3)

and calm. The fright must certainly have killed her from the horror of the monster, for it was not the fifth part of a minute before she was taken up. The sorrows on this unhappy occasion are general and great----and mine, alas ! almost insupportable from the affection and friendship I bore this dear young creature---though neither my youth or situation could entitle me to the least share of her esteem. So universal a grief never appeared amongst one set of people, a people I thought unfeeling till this---But, alas ! they seem emulous to lament her fate. Had he known her, what retaliation could fortune and the world have made the man for whom she was designed ! Here he is happy in not knowing the sweetest, fairest creature nature ever framed. When-
ee'r I see him I'll paint her virtues so lively, he shall grieve he did not know her---I that I ever did and you that you have so unhappy a friend as

Your ----

L E T.

L E T T E R II.

To H. M. Esq ;

Madras, July 7, 1754.

OUR passage to this place has been quick; not exceeding four months from our leaving England, but, tho' deemed a short one, of sufficient length to make me weary of sky and water. I never felt so pleasing a sensation as on my first beholding the island of Zeylon, where all the sweetest beauties of nature are collected for the recreation of mankind. I do assure you I am no ways partial to this lovely spot, though, from its appearance and situation, I believe the natives would find it an easy matter to persuade me it was the original Paradise. The Zeylones boast of their antiquity, and they make use of a strong argument from record in behalf of this opinion; they produce the mountain called Adam's Peek, upon which they pretend are many inscriptions on stone, to confirm all their assertions. 'Tis a journey I must own, I was never ambitious of taking, and the principal means of their supporting this argument; but, at present give me leave to pass it at sea; and in another letter, I promise you shall have their sentiments on this terrestrial paradise.

dise. In passing this island, 'tis impossible for you to conceive how the fragrance of the land-breeze revives our scurvy spirits. But the seamen, who are ever extravagant in their opinions, declare they have smelt it before they saw it ; and the dogs, in approaching the land, give strong indications of the proximity. I must own I cannot boast of so canine a nose, being till this troubled with a polypus, which is entirely removed by the warmth of these southern latitudes. I have smelt this land fifteen leagues, but no other in the world, which may be attributed to the aromatic shrubs and trees which abound here : but there is yet a stronger argument in favour of the fragrance of the air, the Dutch being permitted to export annually a limited quantity of cinnamon and other spices, they burn the residue, which is afterwards thrown into the sea, where it covers the surface, for leagues like tanner's bark. One would imagine Milton had met with something similar to this place, in his travels into Italy : and tho' he has said more upon it than any man did before or since, yet it falls vastly short of its beauties.

——“ Now gentle gales,

“ Fanning their odoriferous wings, dispense

B

“ Native

“ Native perfumes, and whisper whence they
 “ stole [sail
 “ Those balmy spoils. As when to them who
 “ Beyond the *Cape of Hope*, and now are past
 “ *Mozambic*, oft at sea north-east winds blow
 “ *Sabeen odor*, from the spicy shore
 “ Of *Araby* the blest, with such delay
 “ Well pleased, they slack their course, and
 “ many a league [smiles.
 “ Chear’d with the grateful smell old ocean

Notwithstanding this island lies so near the continent of India, and is so abundantly fruitful in every thing, and crowned with eternal verdure ; yet the main is a sterile, sandy soil. Madras is our principal settlement on the coast of Coromandel, and is situated about three hundred paces from the sea, in the latitude of thirteen degrees north. It is by much the most healthful place we possess in this part of India, and defended by a fortification inferior to few in Europe : The town is regularly built ; the houses airy and elegant ; the streets spacious and well paved ; but only inhabited by Europeans : The natives being pagans, after their daily labour, retire to their clay huts, about a mile from the walls. There is a good church with an organ, tho’ a little prayer goes a long way with the English here. There are also public gardens, where

where the ladies and gentlemen repair in an evening in their palanquins ; an indolent method of travelling ; but well adapted to the climate, and the vassalage of the east. They are much like our sedans, only poles at each end instead of the sides, which four men support on their shoulders. If this oriental pomp could be conveyed to London, or the ladies of fashion conveyed here (without that disagreeable circumstance of doubling the Cape, or passing the more dreadful deserts of Persia and Arabia) Bath and Scarborough would be entirely neglected for the pomp and serenity of these climes. They would only lye under the obligation of bringing their music ; for what they call music here, is only the confused jumble of a number of instruments, its noise being its excellence ; for every performer seems emulous to be the loudest, as much as I am to be

Your humble servant:

L E T T E R III.

To Mr. L*.

Madrafs, July 8, 1754.

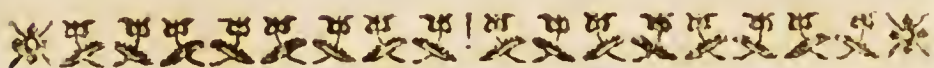
AMONGST all the historical passages you have read, and the many tours you have made to the different parts of the world, I don't think you have met any thing half so astonishing as the superstition of these people: tho' blessed with the liveliest natural parts, they are guilty of the most surprising absurdities, and all under the specious name of religion. The inhabitants of this coast are chiefly pagans, of the Jento cast, who strictly believe in the doctrine of transmigration; maintaining, that the human soul passes from one degree of being to another, and continually actuates some organised body for a certain revolution of years (supposing its sin to be expiated) and then joins the blessed in eternal bliss. The Bramins, or Brachmans, called by the ancients gymnosophists, from going naked, living in solitude, and feeding on vegetables; by whom Pythagoras was taught the opinion of the metempsychosis, which opinion they rigidly adhere to and practise. In every town there are different degrees of these Bramins their fame depending

depending on their austerities and the rigid performance of their vows, tho', in fact, they are divided into two classes ; the first voluntarily retire to woods and deserts to study nature and astronomy ; the second live in the world to admonish princes, direct the state, and teach religion and morality to the people. No man sets out on a journey without the advice of the magi, and till they declare it a fortunate hour, the journey is postponed, tho' ever so material ; and things of less moment, in common domestic affairs, are never executed without the knowledge of the Bramin. These divines are distinguished by streaks of paint across their foreheads, and strings of packthread round their necks ; but, above all, a piece of muslin covers the mouth to prevent insects being destroyed by flying in, by which they might untimely destroy a parent in a fly, before he had worked his expiation in that body, or the God of nature meant his death. These Bramins are great astrologers and diviners ; and from the same they had acquired, I rose one morning early with a friend, to be convinced of that which wore greatly the air of improbability. We found the philosopher in a little thatched clay hut, in the midst of a grove of Tamarind trees, absorbed in study : for the Bramins have still by them some books of great antiquity, their principal

attention being paid to the calculation of eclipses, in which they are remarkably exact; and to preserve this favourite knowledge, they have a large university at Bonarez where the most refined wits are conjurers; a quality which few wits in Europe are blessed with. As soon as he observed us, he arose from his mat on the floor, saluting us with the *selam* (which is rising both hands to the head) adding *grabenemcos*, be it to ye according to the prayers of the poor. He was a majestic venerable old man; his complexion jet black, with a long snowy beard; his dress little, but adapted to the climate. We told him our errand which he received with a smile; and, speaking distinctly the English language, said *about eight moons pass'd,——in your own country,---on the top of a mountain, you had a fever.* He then paused; and looking attentively on my face and right hand, added; *twenty and two moons elapsed, a virgin died that had your first love.* Guess my surprize! he would have proceeded; but Shakespear's Fairy-land coming quick to my memory, made me withdraw, to reflect on what was minutely true, both in regard to time and circumstance. I dare say, you'll immediately thank my companion for this joke; but that is easily removed when I assure you he was a stranger to

to me. So if you don't admire the art of my fortune-teller, it will serve you to laugh at the credulity of

Your's, &c.



LETTER IV.

To L. L. Esq;

Madras, July 10, 1754.

TWO letters, from one place, are certainly more than you are entitled to; but as one was full of pagan idolatry, the other shall treat of some Christianity; although among the natives, there are barely vestiges sufficient to entitle it to the very name. About three miles from this city, over a burning sand, is a small eminence called Saint Thomas's Mount, where that apostle obtained leave, after performing many miracles, to erect a church, and preach the doctrine of Christ. Amongst a number of things equally miraculous, this is mentioned: a large piece of timber lying across the mouth of the harbour of *Meliapour*, and obstructing the navigation of vessels,---the apostle, by fastening his girdle to it, drew it away, tho' a number of elephants had been ineffectually employed before: upon which conviction, *Sagamo*,
the

the reigning king, became (with many thousands) a convert to the Christian religion. The Bramins finding St. Thomas succeed in his new doctrine, and fearing he would in time extirpate them, and their religion, came to a resolution to murder him ; which they inhumanly did when at his devotions in the chapel : his body was interred in the church, and afterwards taken up by the Portuguese, where by it was found *Sagamo's* and both were moved to the city of *Goa*, in the reign of *John* the third of Portugal ; where an elegant church is erected to their memories, and dedicated to that disciple.

Meliapour (which was then the metropolis of that part of India) hath scarce a stone left to declare where it stood ; a few inhabitants and huts continue the name, tho' the very river is dried which occasioned the miracle. There are many things related of this apostle by the Portuguese, since their first arrival in India, which have been variously repeated from time to time, besides a number of crosses have been found, perpetual lamps, inscriptions on brass, &c. but the superstition of these catholicks, joined to the various priest-crafts they perform, make them as little to be depended on, as the untutored Indians. You must laugh with me at the perpetual lamps in Saint Thomas's

Thomas's tomb, being a very inferior piece of legerdemain to that daily practised in the Roman churches. The chief religion of the Mussulmans consists in their lamps, which have been known to burn for ages ; but it would be more surprizing to have them go out than continue, when we are acquainted people are deputed to refresh and attend them. This is not inferior to a juggle amongst the priests of the lower sect,---who denounce them cursed if they neglect bringing victuals for the support of their idols,---which idols never feed publickly, tho' served with the daintiest eates ; ---but the abstinent priest, who, like his followers, is supposed to subsist on vegetable, regales himself with his wooden god, at the expence of their viands and credulity. You see, my dear friend, in all states, potentates, and principalities,---there is more or less hocus-pocus in religion.

That Saint Thomas did preach in India, we have no reason to doubt, and that he was murdered there, seems very evident,---but whether really moved from *Meliapour* to *Goa*, I can't affirm ; for they shew you the remains of his church at the former, and swear to his tomb at the latter: but when we find some thousands of Christian pilgrims, annually travelling

velling through India to *Edeffa* in *Mesopotamia*, to pay homage to his remains, it prevents me fixing the place of his interment, which perhaps you may settle in your more attentive speculations. I must own an accidental discovery I made by being frequently with the younger Bramins, gives me strong reasons to think the New Testament has been preached amongst them, and is still handed down in their devotions. Whenever they meet to smoak the *hubble bubble**, they introduce

* *Is certainly in these hot climates an improvement of the pipe, containing a pint of water, which makes the smoak come cool to the mouth: the lower part is composed of a cocoa nut, upon which is erected a reed of half a foot in length,—on the top of which in an earthen bowl is deposited the fire:—they smoak a variety of leaves and woods but no tobacco —From the vessel wherein the water is held projects a long tube—some made of cane, others of leather, covered with velvet, adorned with gold, many yards long, the part for the mouth being agate of great value. —The elegance of the hubble-bubble, is a great piece of Indostan foppery;—very often presuming greatly on its value;—it has a pompous appearance, and is generally brought in after dinner—placed at a considerable distance from the master of the house, who has the agate pipe on the tube handed him.—We find it in many nations*
a mark

a kind of religious singing with their conversation, and often hearing the subsequent words repeated, I begged a translation of them :

Radie Vistnou gouvendai.

Pedebolai anundai.

O ! Radie, O ! ----

which is literally, " God give us this day our daily bread." — From this one would imagine they had more lights than pagan, and yet the rest of their idolatries confound all the reason patience and common sense of
Your----

a mark of friendship to smook out of one pipe ; — here it is greatly observed, but with more solemnity amongst the american savages, who absolutely ratify a peace with a whiff of tobacco.

LET

L E T T E R V.

To H M. Esq ;

Madras, July 27, 1754.

THIS city makes a most elegant appearance to the sea, nor is it stronger in appearance than reality ; for it certainly is a most redoubtable fortification ; the coming on shore is only practicable in the *mussulers*, boats built of thin wood, which yield when thrown on the shore by the force of the sea ; for here is always a large surf which rises thirty feet perpendicular from the surface of the water, and often beats over the walls to the centre of the town : in such heavy seas as these, boats of our firm heavy construction would be dashed to pieces.---It requires some dexterity to steer on these occasions, of which the natives are perfectly masters, observing always to keep directly before the sea, and when they've received the last shock, or roll of the wave they leap out of the boat and run her high on the beach ; but sometimes, in spite of all their vigilance, boats are overset, and passengers drowned. Here is still a more romantic method of sailing upon *catamarans* ; consisting of three or four logs of wood lashed together, upon which the Indian places himself

self with a paddle, having a cloth round his middle, and a high cap on his head, composed of leaves, which throws off the water; for, like ducks, they are as often under the water as above it:—in this cap he deposits his letters,—and sometimes meets and follows ships to sea many leagues :---they always fish two or three miles from the shore, and then they stand upright to attend their lines, as firm as we on a more solid basis---tho' I have seen them fall off,---but they are on again in an instant.

To-morrow we sail for *Vizagapatam*, and shall leave behind us the highest oriental pomp. The respect offered even to a plebeian European, is sufficient to make him renounce the simplicity of his native country,---but when I ascend to the governor, 'tis beyond any regal pageantry you can conceive: a jaunt to his villa, is like the moving of an army.---I can't say he's a demi-god,---but he's certainly a demi-king amidst his demi-devils.---One would imagine Milton caught the fire of his infernal description, from an Indian governor marching to war.

All in a moment thro' the gloom were seen
Ten thousand banners raise into the air,
With orient colours waving: with them rose

C

A forest

A forest huge of spears, and thronging helms
 Appeared and serried shields in thick array,
 Of depth immeasurable : anon they move
 In perfect phalanx.---

A man ought to have a strong share of good sense and abundance of humility, to withstand such honours, and such adulation ; unless he means to reside here his whole life for 'tis an intoxication the air of England greatly disagrees with. A very merchant here appears as pompous as a prince ;---and tho the trade of England is allowed to exceed any other part of the world, yet there are merchants here, and a number too the wealthiest in the universe. Their trade is not very extensive, seldom penetrating farther than *Persia, Turkey,* or the *Red-sea* ;---but where there are any profits, they must amass great sums from their *æconomy* and low method of living :---they certainly make a pompous appearance of servants, ---but then we must consider those servants don't cost them more than 2s. 3d: *per month*, for they neither diet nor cloath them. — There was a petty trader here called *Lingetty*, only valued at 250,000 l. In short, you are but very little folks when compared with these Orientals. I assure you we make no inconsiderate figure in an evening in the *Toddy Gardens*, where certainly pomp supplies the place
 of

of beauty. To be sure in the *Mall* you greatly exceed us :---but you must recollect you've no perpendicular suns :---'tis no reflection on my countrywomen here---when truth gives the preference to the native ladies,--- who are of a fine bright olive, delicately formed, regularly featured, and pretty to admiration. In these gardens we drink a cool liquor called *Toddy*, which distils from the Palm-tree :--- the Indians making incisions in the wood, and hang little pots to receive the vegetable juice : the trees are from 50 to 70 feet high, without knot or branch, and yet the natives climb them with great agility, by the assistance of a hoop and spikes to their feet. The cocoa which is a species of the palm, is superior in utility to any tree of the creation,---particularly in the *Maldives** islands, where they build, rig, and fit out ships from this tree, and when ready to sail, load them with its product,---as wine, arrack, (which is a spirit by distillation from the toddy) vinegar, black sugar, (from evaporation of the toddy) fruit and shells. These will appear most extraordinary productions for one tree, and yet when minutely and philosophically considered, not more wonderful than many other parts of the creation; as the growth of hemp, the growth

* *A chain of isles S. E. of Malabar.*

of cotton, and a worm weaving filken robes for the fopperies of mankind. The bark of this tree maketh sails, cordage and cables, a kind of cables superior to those we have; being of an elastic nature, they endure the force of the tempest better, and improve from being in the water: the body of the tree affords timber, and their very anchors are made of wood loaded with stones. All over India their huts are constructed of this tree, and thatched with the leaves; the milk of the nut they drink; they eat the kernel, and the shells are used for various domestic purposes. To travel and not communicate one's observations is ungenerous; and often when they are read by those, who have not been out of the smoak of their own chimnies, they are looked on as hyperbolical and romantic. Tho' you have not voyaged, Sir, you have read, and, perhaps, amongst all your reading, you have not met a *Mandeville* equal to——

Your nephew, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R VI.

To H. M. Esq ;

Vizagapatam, August 2, 1754.

THIS is the most social spot I have seen on this continent.—The whole factory live in such harmony together, they may be properly stiled one family, of which Mr. Pigot is the father and governor. A scene of such hospitality to a traveller is uncommon, but when met with, very engaging. Their houses are small, and situated in the midst of Gardens, and serve at once for temples and habitations,-----but calculated for coolness, and surrounded with the tallest palm trees.---In such a corner of the earth, where a new European face is seen but annually, what a pleasure it is to find a gentleman endowed with power and abilities, studious to please, and agreeable to those fortune has raised him to govern. The love and friendship which reign in this small society, look so much like the golden age,---that I dread the very thoughts, of a departure.

Aurea prima fata est æstas, quæ, vindice nullo,
Sponte sua sine lege fidem rectumque colebat.
Montibus in liquidas pinus descenderat undas :
Nullaque

Nullaque mortales, præter sua littora, nòrant.

————— fine militis usu

Mollia securæ peregebant otia * gentes.

Ver erat æternam, placidique tependibus auris

Mulcebant Zephyri natos sine semine flores.

Flumina jam lactis, jam flumida nectaris ibant,

Flavaque de viridi stillabant ilici mella.

That was a golden age which man first saw,

Reason his guide and nature all his law :

Trees kept their mountains, nor did man ex-
plore

Riches in ships on *India's burning Shore*.

No hostile *Nabob's* arms disturbed his peace,

Time slid away in virtue, love, and ease.

Flowers bloomed eternal, not from seeds they
grew,

Spring was immortal,---Zephyrs gently blew.

With milk and nectar, ev'ry stream was fill'd,

And *wine, arrack, and honey, palms* distill'd.

The country about Vizagapatam is very mountainous, and the valleys rich and shady : ---through these mountains runs a small river, and on the banks and sides of the hills a number of little villas and grottos are delightfully situated.

This is the first place I ever received any advantage from having a public education---meeting with Mr. M. B. a school-fellow and countryman,

* Mentis.

countryman.---It is impossible to say the mutual pleasure it occasions ;---how happy he is to confer civilities,---how pleased I am to receive them, especially from a man I long lived with, and with whose connexions I am well acquainted. There are many things to be for and against a public education ;----it gives a youth who is to push his way through the world, an idea of it in miniature :---a large school may be compared to a small republic,---for there you have chiefs, patricians and plebeians,---wits and dunces ;---military, mechanical, mercantile astronomical, poetic, and every other genius in its infancy, ---and very often such friendships are contracted as even to rival NISUS and EURYALUS ;---and that scholastick friendship is of so permanent a nature, that it alone is a sufficient inducement for a father who has enjoyed it, to send his son to partake of the same happiness.---We are entertained at the governor's table with a most peculiar repast, or rather *desert*---as tis never served till the cloth's removed ;---but yet 'tis no fruit---but perfectly a vegetative or animal treat.---In short, 'tis one of SWIFT's Lilliputians,---a man, the most corroborating proof of the Dean's travels,---tho' his elegant voyages are treated as mere matter of romance---when they are certainly no more so than *Robinson Crusoe*.

Crusoe. The world perhaps, one day or other, may pretend to say the same of mine,---because I shall begin like *Daniel de Foe*.
 “ I E. T. was born of reputable parents in
 “ the town of Kingston upon Hull, from
 “ whence I sailed in the *Love and Unity* whom
 “ God preserve) anno 1750. on a voyage to
 “ Greenland.”---I shall almost find it as great a difficulty to get credit, as these much greater authors,---especially when I tell you, our desert at the governor’s was the person and conversation of an Indian dwarf, three feet high, and a priest of the Moorish church ;---his face is perfect jet---contrasted, with a long silver beard,---and every member proportioned with the justest symmetry ;---the tone of his voice is sonorous and manly,---and his conversation sensible , he is married to a lady greatly out of proportion to himself,---who has bore him two children (not of the Lilliput race) whom I one day saw him severely chide in the public street with his cane ;---a kind of domestic doctrine propagated here. This Mah-metan pygmy every day after dinner---is placed by the servant on the table--where he walks round, and discourses warmly with the guests in English. Such an orator with you would draw a great congregation, and make more come to church than were religious. I wish I could remit him by letter,
 ---he

---he would raise as great a concourse as the quart bottle did,-- with more probability of getting into it: but he is an ecclesiastick of distinction---and from his *petitness*---enjoys a good living,---tho' three and four thousand pounds have been offered, by many East-India captains to bring him to England, and return him in four years, but without success. I must own I often wish I could trapan his holiness, tho' it would wear the air of sacrilege in a pagan country.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R VII.

To L. L.

Vizagapatam, August 3. 1754.

IT is almost endless to continue the theme of paganism, for every acre of ground contains people of different tenets.---Here I'm presented with the superstition of the *Mussulman*---and have visited their grand mosque: wherein are a number of lamps, which have burnt for many years. The building is a mean piece of marble architecture, adorned with dull hieroglyphicks; and the only ornament within is a neat silk bed, whereon they would persuade me the body of Mahomet's brother was reposed---which I attempted to look at, but they were prepared to prevent me. This mosque is illuminated every day of worship, and the sleeping prophet served with the daintiest cates,---for no man's prayers are accepted without an offering. They have neither altars nor images, but when they pray, they turn themselves toward *Mecca*, where ('tis said) *Mahomet* was born, and where his temple *Kiabbe* stands, but his tomb is at *Medina*, about ten miles from *Mecca*, where an annual pilgrimage is made. But of all Idolatries, (unless the Egyptian) nothing
can

can be more shocking and ridiculous, than the adoration of MONKIES here ; which from being made sacred, are innumerable. In a large, pleasant, shady valley, about five miles from *Vizagapatam*, is the neatest, best building in India, called *Annemunto* temple, in which a golden monkey is worshipped by this idolatrous part of mankind, as a representative of the whole community,---which inhabit the trees of the valley, and are fed with rice at the expence of the worshippers.---- It is very diverting to ride thro' this vale, amongst these little silvan gods---which may be stiled the Satyrs of the woods :---they must certainly be what the ancients adored under the names of *Satyri*, *Panes*, *Fauni Sylvarum Dii*,---“ Gods of the Woods.”---They seem so sensible of their respect and security, as to approach you, and accompany you as you move from tree to tree, with a thousand anticks peculiar to their race. I cannot imagine what can have procured them so much respect with these people, unless its their resemblance of little men, and their belief in the doctrine of *Pythagoras* ;---for absolutely their appearance is more human than animal, being a strong likeness of the natives in every thing but size,---which is very small ; their faces are black, and their beards long and white. We are not to be astonished at such idolatry,

idolatry, when we read the wisest and bravest people have been guilty of worse absurdities in kneeling to stocks and stones.

We have here a defeated *Nabob*, with all the regalia of war, and so very military in his appearance, that women, Elephants and camels, compose his camp : his ladies are so numerous, that their huts alone form a little town, being 300, and in seperate apartments, ----and as difficult to come at, as the most hidden jewels in the mines of *Golconda*. Such is the vanity of the oriental ladies, preferring the goodth part of a prince, and eternal solitude and retirement, to liberty and one man. This kind of love would ill agree with the English ladies : to be carried to Bath and Scarborough in a nutch, and there deprived of the pleasure of seeing and being seen.----I entertain myself here in an evening in a sumptuous manner, riding between two of the Nabob's sons on a she elephant;-----the back being broad, requires no saddle,---a red cloth trimmed with gold being thrown over for an ornament : the gait is long and fatiguing, but not being above ten feet high, is a hobby in comparison of some here. The sagacity of the elephant is so well known, that no action of the animal can surprise you after attending and reading the facts related by the celebrated *Pliny* :---
“ he

“ he tells us an elephant, duller than usual,
 “ was found by his master practising the les-
 “ sons taught him in the day,---and that he
 “ saw one which had learnt the Greek alpha-
 “ bet and could put a sentence together with
 “ his trunk.” For my own part, I have been
 so much amongst them, and I have seen so
 many of their actions that I can credit any
 thing I hear of ’em.---Close to the window
 of my lodging, is tethered eleven, where they
 are fed with long grass and boughs of trees ;
 but, upon my rising this morning, I was pre-
 sented at once with the most unparalleled scene
 of revenge and knowledge, that ever came
 from a brute.---This hobby of *Brobdignag*
 was the moderato size of 15 feet 4 inches---
 I won’t enter into a minute description of so
 common an animal, only contradict the error
 of their sleeping against a tree, and having
 no joints,---by assuring you they rise and
 fall with more agility than any beast of the
 creation. Their capacity is certainly beyond
half reasoning ; they are absolutely lawyers
 when compared with many of our acquaint-
 tance,---and the following little history will
 so bias you in their favour, that, could I
 believe in transmigration, I should persuade
 myself you would reanimate the body of the
reasoning elephant.---The keeper broke him a
 cocoa-nut, and gave him the shell only, which

D

the

the beast took with that apparent good nature, he had done with the kernel in. When he came to feed him the following morning, he seized him with his trunk, threw him in the air, then mangled the body with his foot,--- placing the shell on the corpse, (which he had retained in his mouth) as a reason for the justness of the murder. I expect credit with you for this, *Pliny* might have got it with the world ; but however romantick and astonishing this action may appear, yet it falls as infinitely short of their sagacity, and docility, as your humble servant does of

Yours, &c.

Postscript.

How instinct varies in the grov'ling swine,
Compar'd, half reasoning elephant with thine !
Pope credits Pliny, but who'll credit mine. ?

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L E T T E R VIII.

To G. T. Esq.

Vizagapatam, August 4, 1754.

I AM now in the midst of a *Nabob's* seraglio, ---where three hundred chosen beauties are devoted for his pleasure:---but, alas! tho' in the midst of these lovely creatures, whose ages are from nine to seventeen, I can't see one:---a centinel protects every door, and to force one would be cruel, when the other day he was defeated, and stripped of every necessary but these---the most cordial in life. And yet, when I reflect on their forlorn situation, I am almost mad enough to commence *Quixote*---and I certainly should, if I had a *Sancho* to accompany me, but fighting of windmills *solus*, affords no pleasing remarks,---for the highest entertainment is fighting the battle over again, as your Yorkshire jockeys kill the fox; but indeed these young beauties deserve our warmest pity, when we recollect this amorous *Nabob* is at *Delly*,---the seat of the Great Mogul:---think what sighs and tears are shed and blown for him, ---whilst I, as loving as he, am a vagrant in an unknown land:---their huts are only

composed of clay, and thatched ; so, wherever he pitches his camp, these are erected for their privacy and convenience.---I am told there's a great jealousy subsists amongst them, and that he is as studious to prevent it.---I've been presented with a little ode from one of his ladies on her rival;---but the language is so difficult, and I'm so little acquainted with it,---I fear I shant do it that justice so great a curiosity merits, but you shall have the sense of it.----

ZINZEMERZA TO CALIL ULLAH.

ZINZEMERZA can't be gay,
 Whilst her great Nabob's away :
Zinzemerza dont forget
 Her teeth of iv'ry, face of jet ;
 Her silken robes,---her shining hair,
 The jewel which her nose doth bear.
 O may the elephant you ride !
 Conduct you safe o'er deserts wide :
 May all the *Pagods* of our land
 Attend you o'er the burning sand :
 And *Calil Ullah*,---may no face
 Appear with *Zinzamerza's* grace !
 O send your passions may withstand
 The beauties of that distant land !
 Kind *Callil*, generous as the palm,
 Gentle as summer seas and calm ;

Brave

Brave as the Lynx---great, glorious man,
The sweetest prince of *Indostan*.

O *Calil Ullah*, pray be true,
Hear me---I swear---by great *Vistnou**
When you die---I burn with you.

Deck'd in my most costly pride,
Will I mount the funeral pile :
Bramins shall weep to see me smile,
And tell the world how *Zinzamerza* died.

You'll find this burning passion peculiar to the ladies of this country, who possess the greatest firmness on such occasions ;---a firmness not to be paralleled among the Roman dames, tho' we mention *Aria*, *Portia*, and *Lucretia*.---But here I must have committed a great offence to one so devoted to the Roman history,---as to admire the martial spirit of *Publius*,---tho' he murdered his sister in the midst of his triumph ;---but *Rome* could forgive her heroes any murders,---tho' at the expence of wisdom and humanity.---

In these charcoal beauties we find great temperance, constancy, and obedience ; you hardly hear of adultery :---the women of irregular pleasures being so by birth, and known by the name of *Dancing girls*,---who are hired upon all festivities, and in their gesticulati-

D 3

ons

* *Vistnou*, a Pagod worshipped by the *Indians*.

ons are guilty of some indecencies ; they are distinguished in their apparel like the *Athenians*, and by that are known to the world as *Filles de joie*. The diet of the ladies is entirely vegetables ; they dress their husband's victuals, and wait on him and the children ; and after asking leave, dine alone on the residue. They are married by their parents at two years old, but don't cohabit 'till nine, and here it is common to see them with child at ten.---There are some injunctions laid on the women, which would appear cruel in a land of liberty and ease like England :---the husband may have as many wives as he pleases, and his circumstances will maintain, ---and should one *dear creature* repine, or censure his incontinence, he can divorce her by allowing her a necessary support ;---or should she commit an error,---he can reduce her to a slave in his own house.---This submission to the will and caprice of a husband, appears terrible, and yet they are chains which sit easy in the climes they are wore.

The stature of the women is low, their complexions olive, their hair jet black and long, their features small and regular, and their forms genteel ; and so general, that in all the parts of India I have passed through, ---I never met a deformed woman, which I attribute

attribute to the method of rearing their children.---They never swathe them, nor dress them with any other thing but trinkets round their necks, ancles, and wrists.---they use no strings to support 'em, but let them roll about till they find their feet, by which they walk some months sooner than the children in *Europe*.----The dress of their ladies is light, and adapted to the climate, being silk, or muslin thrown negligently over the breasts, and pinned round the waste like a petticoat ; their fopperies consisting in rings and diamonds, the principal one as big as the chrystal of a watch, is set with one large jewel, or a number of small ones, and placed in the lower part of the right nostril : this nasal mode will appear ridiculous to you,---but I give you my word, it adds an air of dignity to the face,---and should the ladies of *England* follow the fashion, I dare say their noses on a birth-day would purchase the rest of their dresses.---You certainly have a right to laugh at a custom so *outré* and *Indian*, as your hogs are the only animals in this mode. But the most shocking hardship is burning with the stinking body of a dead husband, or quitting their families and becoming prostitutes ; an horrid alternative to a virtuous mind.-----This was first introduced by the *Bramins* as a law,---and at length became a religious act,
 ---and

(36)

---and a prudent one for the men,---when one woman would have ten husbands; for as they disobliged her, she removed them by poison; since which, few have been destroyed, as it falls so heavy on the destroyer.---In another letter you shall have the description of a funeral pile, having sufficiently awakened your understanding to doubt the customs of a country so removed.

I am, &c

L E T-

L E T T E R IX.

To H. M. Esq ;

Bengal, August 21. 1754.

IT is impossible for me to describe, or you to conceive, with what reluctance I left *Vizagapatam*, (the *Enna* of *India*) tho' the last day had nearly been my *last*. You well remember what a jockey I always was at the *Hull* hunt, when the chase of an here brought me as many times on the ground, as I rid miles,---but being born with a presumptive adventurous spirit,---I attended the gentlemen of the factory in pursuit of a lynx;---but thro' indolence, inattention, or bad riding, I was separated from my companions, when the beast rushed from the thicket---stood close to my horse,---and viewed us alternately with longing lips ;---but dont imagine we remained twelve hours in this *delightful* attitude,---or twelve minutes,---but long enough to create an additional heat, to that of the climate.---You'll be *disappointed* when I tell you, my friends relieved me by the death of the monster,---because the catastrophe would have been greatly heightened,---by his tearing me to pieces,---and writ-
ing

ing the account afterwards. I never saw in any place so complete a menage as at *Vizagapatam*, wherein no animal is omitted but the lion, which is not a beast of this climate.

—The beast of labour is the buffalo, and the cows the largest I have seen, which in many parts of India particularly *Bombay*, draw all the coaches. I have now the pleasure of contradicting a romantic poetical notion, of theameleon's subsistence being only upon air. This creature has a long forked tongue, which it throws out with incredible swiftness, and seldom misses its prey, which is flies,---and all other winged insects. I'm afraid this abrupt contradiction of a thing so universally received, will meet with few believers, especially among the *MUSES*,---nay, they cannot receive it,---being a means of destroying a great simile, and the only one nature affords:---the toads feeding on vapour is very inferior to the other,---especially when a poet means to describe the life of a man, who, to all appearance lives upon nothing, ---which gives him room to say,

“ While I condemn'd to thinnest fare,
“ Like those I flattered, feed on air.”

Had it not been from a false, or rather no knowledge at all of this animal, the world would have lost an excellent fable of the spaniel

niel and cameleon, written by the celebrated Mr. Gay : therefore, since it is probable the poets may be hurt by this truth, I beg it may go no farther than your own breast, as it will be hurting the trade of a most learned body, who are too poor to be afflicted with the smallest loss, or the least additional misfortune.——But the cameleon assumes different colours, according to the different rays of light, which are thrown upon it---and very often the hue of herbage it crawls on; ---a bright simile for a courtier.---Our passage cross the Bay was ten days, which gives rise to the term *Coast* and *Bay*,---from the ships that visit *Coromandel* and *Bengal*,——which is the most eastern province of the Mogul's dominions, and superior in fertility to *Egypt* itself.——

——“ For nature here
 “ Wanton'd, as in her prime, and plaid at
 “ will
 “ Her virgin fancies, pouring forth more
 “ sweet,
 “ Wild above rule or art !---”

The *Ganges* which is as large as any river in the world, rises in the mountains in *Tartary*, and runs S. E. dividing itself into several branches, which empty themselves into the *Bay of Bengal*, and overflow the kingdom
 like

like the *Nile*. From these floods *Bengal* is thought unwholsom,---but I rather think the intemperance of Europeans is to be censured more than the climate, for drinking is here a reigning vice, and too often practised in a morning. The excessive heats, terrible fogs, and the shifting of the periodical winds, are very disagreeable circumstances ; for the monsoons are attended with such violent storms of thunder, lightning, winds, and rain, that you would rather imagine it the dissolution of nature, than any thing else. Every new and full moon we are alarmed here by a *boar*, of which you have some small idea in the rivers falling into the *Bristol* channel:---'tis occasioned by the rains coming down the smaller branches of this great river---and opposing the regular lunar flood from the sea ; the opposition of two such bodies of water, occasion one to flow above thirty feet above the other ;---its appearance is awful, and the consequences often fatal to men and shipping. The eternal verdure which reigns here is delightful,---but it is difficult to determine whether the woods or floods are more savage, one swarming with crocodiles, the other with tygers-----I hope, as we advance, to find a more civilized kingdom,
but

(41)

but a people not quite so valiant as those
who opposed *Alexander*, nor yet seven feet
high like the brave king *PORUS**.

I am, &c.

* Defeated by *Alexander*——to perpetuate
which victory,——two cities were built *Peritas*
and *Bucephala*,——one in honour of his dog, the
other of his horse.

E

L E T-

L E T T E R X.

To Miss Ez. T.

Calcutta, August 30, 1754.

NOtwithstanding I have gone thro' various difficulties, yet I cannot help admiring the traveller's life above the citizen's ---who is seldom more eccentric than the smock of his own chimney,---and, on going to dinner at *Hampstead*, will raise the whole family at four in the morning to equip him for the journey. The French in general are more confined and opinionated, than the Londoners,——they conceit themselves the citizens of the world, and their language is the language of the earth;---by knowing one another, they know all mankind; and in seeing *France*, they see the universe. Your thirst of knowledge, I know is so great, that you even envy me this oriental excursion, but I promise, as a small compensation for your loss, to amuse you with my remarks; I shall not improve you, ---but I shall add to your happiness by proving to you, how much you are above these heathens. I have just sailed up one of the largest rivers in the world,---which is so full, ---you would imagine one puff of wind would deluge

deluge the whole country. Nature wears here her gayest livery, nor is it annually changed, but, like a good servant ever fair and flourishing. The country is champaign, and diversified with meadows, groves, and corns: their towns and cities, on the banks are very populous, but their houses mean clay huts thatched with straw. *Calcutta*, where the English have established their principal factory, is an elegant city, the houses are lofty and airy, and the governor's palace magnificent. The English ladies live in the greatest pomp, and receive a peculiar respect from being white,---tho', in point of beauty and symmetry of features, inferior to the natives. How much happier you must be, when you recollect the servile subordination of the wives to their husbands; waiting at table on him and his children, and dining on what they leave; such meals would ill digest with many of our acquaintance; but custom happily reconciles every thing.---Here is one excellent established manner of the eldest son's maintaining the rest of the family;---if it could be translated to England, it would be a great comfort to us younger brothers, who are not able to maintain ourselves;---besides it would wear off that heavy, dull, illiterate capacity, so peculiar to the first-born male.---The girls depend on marriage, of which

there's little danger of missing, when the contracts are made in infancy, and consummated at nine years old ;---'tis a fine method to prevent old maids perplexing a community with their venom'd gossiping : for lying and antiquated virginity are inseperable. The respect the women pay to their dead husbands,---will stagger the belief of every married lady, when thye're told, they burn themselves with their bodies ; but of late years it is much abolished, and utterly forbid within the jurisdiction of the English factory. The introduction of so cruel a custom, was at first political, and at length made, by priest-craft, religious,---and really happily introduced for the safety of the poor men, who as fast as they disobliged their wives, or the wives grew weary of them, they put them out of the way by a little quick poison ; but since burning or ignominy is the alternative, the ladies are as assiduous to preserve the lives of their dons, as they were diligent to destroy 'em. Two days ago I was present at one of these cruel scenes, when the sweetest widow of twenty was sacrificed to the manes of an old husband. The procession was trifling, and tho' all appeared in smiles, yet a solemnity reigned through the whole, as if the festivity was affected. In the front of this living funeral advanced her three daughters, (pretty creatures, from five to

to nine years old) next her only son,---then a band of harsh music,---and lastly, the widow followed by all her friends and kindred. She was dressed in her gayest apparel, and adorned with jewels, gold and silver trinkets, &c. The funeral pile consisted of aromatick woods, dipped in gums ; it was five feet high, and on the top was extended the dead body of her husband. As soon as she arrived, she surveyed it with a pleasing carelessness, and repeating some words, walked stately three times round ; then took a most affectionate leave of all her friends, and lastly, her babes, who parted with smiles ; but I own I thought the boy would have shook her constancy, dwelling some time about her neck,---which the priest perceiving, interrupted her,---receiving profits from such horrid catastrophes. She then stripped herself of all her ornaments, giving something to all, and with the most unshaken courage mounted the pile ; taking the head of the dead body in her lap, and a jar of oil in her hand,---which as soon as the fire was kindled, she poured over her head, and without a sigh, tear, or emotion, expired in an instant,---while the croud filled the air with acclamations of joy.——

“ Accipe me *Capaneu* : cineres miscribimur,

“ inquit

“ *Iphias* : in medios defiluetque rogos.

OVID.

Receive me *Capaneas*, *Evadne** cryed,
Our ashes death himself shall not divide :
I come to join the with a nuptial smile,
She, said, and leap'd amidst the blazing pile.

But from the account given us by *Propertius*, the Indian excels the Grecian : for it was raving madness in *Evadne*, for the death of her husband *Capaneas*, which made her guilty of such rashness : but how custom and paganism can bring a young creature, in the bloom of life to destroy herself, staggers all reason and philosophy ;---the dread of ignominy and penury, must operate strongly on the human mind,---and may prevail before the damnation pronounced by the *Bramin*, to be reduced to the condition of a slave in the house we have been mistress of,---and to be exposed to shame, poverty and prostitution ; to renounce children, friends, and family, are arguments of so powerful a nature, as to make the virtuous embrace a death

**Evadne*, daughter of *Iphis*, or *Hyphias*, by Mars ——— called *Iphias* by Ovid.

death of this sort, before a life of infamy and wretchedness. I must own I felt an uncommon emotion on this occasion, when I considered the wisdom and courage of man were meant by the Deity to protect and defend the beauty and virtue of woman and not so inhumanly to destroy a life given by the hand of God, who has the only right to dispose of it.

I am, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R XI.

To L. L. Esq;

Calcutta, September 5, 1754.

I HAVE now sailed some hundred miles upon sacred water, and the further I advance, the more I find superstition and idolatry encrease. The salutary waters of BATH and PYRMONT, are not to be mentioned with these, in point of dearness and veneration; they are bottled and carried to every part of India,---and are the most valuable liquor at their entertainments. The respect to these waters arises from an opinion, that their idol *Jaganet* was taken from a beautiful flower which floated on the *Ganges*, by the sovereign god *Vishnou*; and that he invested him with the power of governing the world. This seems to be the sense of the *Vedam*, and corresponds with Mr. *Ramsley's Cyrus*, tho' the *Bramins* show the narrowness of their knowledge, in looking on a large body of waters, (as the *Ganges* are) as the great abyss before the creation of the world. Que les *Bramins* reconnoissent un seul, et souverain dieu qu'ils appellent *Vishnou*; que se premeire, & plus ancienne production futun dieu secondaire nomme *Brama*; que le souverain dieu le

le tira d'unfleur qui flotoit sur la surface de l'abime avant le création de ce monde : & enfin que *Vistnou* donna à *Brama*, à cause de sa fidelité, le pouvoir de creer l'univers."

In the different parts of *Indostan*, this idol *Brama* is addressed by the name of *Jaganet*, *Ramram*, *Bruin*, &c. whom they worship as *Vistnou's* vice-gerent.---I was present at one of their festivals in the month of September, which continued four days, from the 23d to the 27th. Their assemblies are held in temples, (built in an humble manner) like the Roman amphitheatres, and greatly crowded on such occasions. Here they sing, dance, and play on the most dissonant instruments, to amuse the idol ; which of all inventions is the most monstrous,---more horrid than that worshipped in *Gaza* by the *Philistines*.-----

" *Dagon* his name ; sea monster ! upwards

" man

" And downwards fish."-----

Some of their pagods are represented riding on a cow, (which animal they call the mother of nature) women with the trunk of an elephant instead of a nose, and some with five heads, and ten hands. There is an emulation amongst the different tribes of the *Jen-toes*, who can excel in expences to their idols ;
and

and to see their tastes, you would imagine they were emulous to be monstrous.----Figures with tongues to their knees, the head of a hog to the body of a man,---a woman's face with a fish's tail, carved upon wood, with red and yellow hands and faces. One would imagine they had read HORACE---and seriously where he laughed,

Would you not (*Piso*) at that painter rail,
Who drew a WOMAN with a fish's tail?

For they have certainly put together, and collected every ridiculous image he mentioned in his art of poetry. These horrid idols are placed on an eminence in the upper parts of the temple, which they approach with the most profound reverence; where a woman sits surrounded with a number of hot dishes, which she alternately dabs in the faces of the figures, while the high priest of the *Bramins* is waving a feathered fan to keep them cool. The scene is varied the following day, by ornamenting the walls of the pagods, with the figures of birds, fish and fruit cut in paper, with dancing-girls, merry Andrews, &c. to divert the spectators. The third is passed on the *Ganges*, where their *Buggeraws* or Boats make a most elegant appearance, being rowed by 40 or 50 oars.---In these barges their idols are carried,-- and upon their decks they perform

form a kind of comedy,---a clown being the principal character,---who jumps, roars, and makes faces for four hours to divert his pagod,---and give him a good opinion of man's civility on earth,---hoping he'll recommend his tribe to the sovereign god. This kind of *Lord Mayor's Shew*, is concluded by throwing the idols into the river, and with them a number of jars of potted meat, sealed down, to supply them on their journey to a distant world :---but what is still more shocking, these poor, deluded, ignorant wretches, will plunge in and drown with them, in hopes of a more exalted state, and a quick transmigration. Such is the blind zeal of these pagans, and such the reguery of priests ; to persuade their followers there's life in stocks, and images are mediators between them and a deity.--I shall leave you to animadvert on the weakness and folly of man,--- and enlarge on the prejudice of education and bad example : for like wax we receive any impression, and when made in our youth, too often continues to our death : which shows how necessary good instructions are, and I believe the best general lesson is a fair example,-----for where one acts from himself, there's ten from copy ; but when the imitation rests in defects,---it must prove a defective body. *Los Ninos de pequénos, que no ay castigo despues para ellos.*

Yours, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XII.

To Miss-----

Calcutta, November 26, 1754.

Indolence, in this part of the world, appears to be a greater fatigue than real labour with you : it absolutely requires invention, how to pass away the time, for the natives are so very active in transacting the different branches of business, that we have nothing to do, and little more to say, than yes. ---and no. In an evening by way of air and amusement, we swing to the *Bread and Cheese* **Bungula* in our palanquins,----where, in all the pomp of the east, we say, “ How do “ you do ? ” and come back again. As for my part, I have lost the use of my legs,---being deemed vulgar to walk, and you know my spirit’s so great, that I had rather lose my legs than my manners. The entertainments are given here with grandeur and ceremony ; and the married ladies in general addressed by the name of *Bibbi*, (i. e.) wife ; and tho’ their complexions are a perfect bright shining walnut, yet we men call them all those fair names due
to

*In the year 1754, the confines of the India Company’s factory.

to the fairest. I've often wished you here ; you would be the *Juliet* of the East,---but I would not wish *Juliet* the Sun,----for two suns would consume us.----As for musick, we have none : but in an evening after the dropping of the sun,---there is the most dismal croakings and hissings of reptiles, from the hooded serpent to the toad,---and the solemn ear of night is generally offended by an hideous chorus of jackals, which come in herds from the woods for prey. And though the pagans have not one ray of scripture, yet they retain in perfection a sounding brass, and a tinkling symbol.----We have fellows too which tumble before our doors,---and show an activity not unworthy *Sadler's Weils*. Upon a long pole they carry a number of small baskets, in which are a great variety of serpents, and from tuition, (the serpent, we are told being an apt scholar) they rise to the tinkling of a brass kettle ; dart out their forked tongues, hiss, and drop into their baskets again. You'll be much surprised when I tell you we have a hunt here,---but every man that engages in it, ought to be a perfect *Nimrod*, with the fortune of a *Daniel*. Being a Yorkshireman, instinct prompted me to attend one morning, tho' I had a right to plead excuse on the part of a sailor.---Out we sallied very formidable Quixots,---armed with

F sword,

sword, lance, and pistol. I could not conceive the use of such armour,----when the mighty object was only a wild buffalo, till I was told “ They were sometimes surprised by a tiger : a sufficient incident to make reason decline so hazardous a chase : but juvenile modesty could not deny an expedition, where absolutely life and character were risked---a modesty, which too often precipitates youth beyond redemption. Imprudent things of this kind happen to all young men, and when they are even repugnant to their feelings and knowledge, they have not courage to give a sensible denial, for fear of incurring the ridicule of their companions.---Well, in the hunting strain we came to the cover, found, run, and killed;---but you, and all females would have laughed, to see the lances of so many heroes in an animal, as inoffensive as a cow. Flushed with this sylvan glory, we ranged for another, when to my unspeakable astonishment, a tiger sprung over the head of one of the hunt, and without turning, went on. My brother bucks echoed, *Tally, O!* pleased to their souls to see the beast go off, and find their friend well, who was sometime before he could utter an ejaculation for so happy an escape. It is the nature of the tiger, whenever he springs and misses his prey, to go on,---and a very happy

py brutal bashfulness it is. This was a fine anecdote for an evening's laugh, but I give you my honour, I'll never bear arms in such service again. The heads of our family are thin, and if he had scratched me with a talon, I had not lived to say how much I wish to see you, and call you *Bibbie*, which may it be soon, is as much my request, as your desert.

I am, &c

L E T T E R XIII.

To H. M. Esq ;

Calcutta, Decmber 19, 1754.

I AM certainly entitled to the name of JONAS, when I relate to you so many escapes,--and yet the following one at *Chandana-gore*,* is more serious than the rest. I was deputed by captain Ward to go in search of run seamen, being a tolerable speaker of the French language. I dined at an ordinary with a number of choice spirits in the French navy, many of them taken the last war in the *May* fleet under *Anson* and *Warren*.-----Being young, gay, giddy, and flushed with claret,----I talked at random,---which, joined to a darkness of expression for want of a perfect knowledge of the language, raised some suspicions I was a spy, and before the cloth was well removed from the table, I was removed to the *Blackhole*. This situation was rather dismal, I guessed their suspicions, which made my thoughts as gloomy as my place of confinement,---neither knowing nor being known to any person,---and what heightened my

* The principal settlement belonging to the French in the kingdom of *Bengal*.

my melancholy, I knew my fate would be hanging without question or ceremony.---- In the midst of these dismal meditations, I was ordered before the governor, a piece of good fortune I had quite despaired of,----- for truth, youth, and innocence, were the only friends I had to depend on. The governor received me with a smile, and asked me, “ How could you be so imprudent, Sir, to “ come with such a confidence of safety to “ survey and reconnoitre the fortifications.” I replied with a great deal of confidence, I came in search of some English seamen who had deserted, and my walk round the fort was merely for amusement. At which time the lady of the hotel where I lodged, pleaded my cause with great tenderness and success----to the no small disappointment of those who had appeared against me. I am so sensible of the charity of this female stranger, ----that I shall fight the rest of my life, a soldier under their banner, nor desire a sweeter death, than in the defence of their injured virtues. I was immediately dismissed,---and a guard ordered to see me depart,---a departure to me of no reluctance.----I shall leave the kingdom of *Bengal* in a few days, having repaired the damages our ship had sustained in the monsoon storm.----The waste and devastation made by the storm is not to

be described: the whole country appears a general deluge; men, women, beasts, houses, &c. are promiscuously swept into the ocean, For some days, like old *Deucalion*, I've row'd in a boat through the town, making a stable my habitation, our house with some hundreds, being in ruins; and yet they are of a make so superior to the natives, one would think nothing could hurt them. The climate has certainly a great serenity,---but these hurricanes and cataracts of rain, tho' once a year are sufficient to float and blow one from *Bengal*.

“ Fierce rain with light'ning mixt, wàter with
 “ fire
 “ In ruin reconcil'd.---Dreadful was the rack
 “ As earth and sky would mingle : nor yet slept
 “ the winds
 “ Within their stony caves, but rush'd abroad
 “ From the four hinges of the world, and fell
 “ On the vast wilderness, whose tallest pines,
 “ Tho' rooted deep as high, bow'd their stiff
 “ necks.---
 “ ---The floating vessel swam uplifted ; all
 “ -----Dwelling else
 “ Flood overwhelm'd, and them, with all
 “ their pomp,
 “ De^r under water rowl'd : sea cover'd sea ;
 “ Sea without shore ! and in their palaces,
 “ Where

(59)

“ Where luxury lately reign’d, sea monsters

“ whelp’d,

“ And stabled.----

My next will be from *Ceylon*, from whence
you may be certain of descriptions as calm,
as these are ruffled.---Adieu.---

L E T-

L E T T E R XIV.

To H. M. Esq ;

Ceylon, January 12, 1754.

IN crossing the bay of *Bengal*, I had the pleasure of seeing the celebrated pagoda of *Jaganet*, which is a lofty building on a low shore, and serves for an excellent land-mark to seamen. To this temple many thousand Indians repair on pilgrimage, with annual offerings for their idol, represented in solid gold. The great wealth the priests of this pagoda have amassed from the donations of the superstitious, is beyond any thing you can conceive: for my own part I would not wish to enjoy the office of high Bramin for more than one year,---to surpass all your bishops and all their gleanings.---It much surprises me, since the death of *Alexander* the Mad, that none of our European mercenary mad-men have been mad enough to collect the eyes of these pagan gods; for they are large diamonds of inestimable value;---besides, it would be no cruelty, tho' a cruel theft; for their godships would see quite as well. The *English* Indians seem to be nibbling

bling, but none have that spirit so peculiar to *Alexander*, who would rob and burn a church as soon as a hen roost,---tho' all equally mercenary ;---for 'tis with the view of lucre we come to India, and few make a bad use of their time.

“ Fortuna multis dat nimis, nulli fatis.”

Our passage hath been pleasant from the *Ganges*, but falling in with the coast of *Ceylon* in the night, had nearly lost our ship, by the deception of a strong current on the shore.-----This island is certainly the garden of the world,----but whether or no the original *Eden*, I shall not determine ; the natives strictly believe it so, and tho' their doctrine is entirely pagan,----yet the few faint lights they throw out of the first man and woman, and the conferences they believe the angels held with them on mount *Hammaltell*, or *Adam's* hill, give me strong reasons to believe, they might be converted to a better faith : but the Europeans, who visit these climates, study the propagation of riches not religion. The mountain called *Adam's Peak*, is prodigiously lofty, and may be seen a number of leagues at sea : on its summit is a square stone with the print of a man's foot upon it, which the Indians believe was made by God,
when

when he paid his last visit to our primitive parents ; and such is the respect and veneration paid to it---to make an annual pilgrimage up this lofty mountain, to kiss the stone. My short stay here will not permit me to make these very particular remarks I could wish, for your amusement : tho' I have not ascended to the top of this mountain,---yet the superior view it gave me of the world below, without that film removed from my eyes, “ which that false fruit that promised clearer sight had bred,” brought to my memory that descriptive passage of Milton's, when Michael, from a hill in Paradise, shows Adam the whole world.

“ ————It was a hill

“ Of Paradise the highest ; from whose top

“ The hemisphere of earth, in clearest ken,

“ Stretch'd out the amplest reach of prospect lay.

The eye might there command from th'

“ destin'd walls

“ Of *Cambalu*, seat of *Cathain Can* :

“ And *Samercand* by *Oxus*, *Temir's* throne ;

“ To *Pekin* of *Senæn* kings and thence

“ To *Agra*, and *Labor*, of great *Mogul* ;

“ Down to the golden *Chrisonese* : or where

“ The *Persian* in *Ecbatan* sat, or since

“ In *Hispahan*.”----

My

My ascending the southern side of this tremendous mountain, which only commanded the island and the sea, deprived me of that northern prospect which lay behind from *Cambalu* to *Hispahan*.-----This place seems to be chosen by the God of Nature for the sweetest and the fairest fruit-trees of the creation; here is every thing that can please the taste, the smell, the sight,---and if all the delicious productions of the earth, the serenest sky, plenty, health, long life, beds of roses, purling streams, aromatick bowers, and eternal summer, entitle a place to the name of Paradise, this is the delightfullest spot upon earth,---I cannot say so much of its inhabitants, when the mildness of such a climate does not render them less savage.---But if we allow the first pair to be expelled Eden,---in the course of years---it might as well be possessed by the race of *Cain* as *Adam*.----And if we agree the deluge was universal, the inundation might alter many particulars, without entirely rooting every tree peculiar to so fair a spot,---and then the disobedient race of *Ham* might extend themselves as well from *Lasha* to *Ceylon*, as from *Babel* to *Lasha*, tho' I rather believe them black from the intense heat of the sun, than stigmatized by any curse denounced against them.

Your's, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R X V.

To J. T. Esq.

Tellecherry, February 7, 1755.

THE scene is greatly changed by changing the coast : the inhabitants of *Malabar* are an hardy, roving, warlike people, and from this place to *Cape Comoroon*, are chiefly pirates and morattoes, that subsist by plunder. In passing from this port to *Ajengo*, we were visited by *Angria's* cruizers, who amused our attention by a distant cannonading, and night attacks : I must own I had a desire to be more closely connected with them, to repeat what my uncle *Commodore Bagwell* bestowed upon them. I have made many enquiries after his unhappy shipwreck, but have never heard of one plank being found of so many valuable vessels. I find his memory lamented and respected in every part of *India* I have travelled through,---which has been some advantage to me, a young voyager. He bears a very singular character for a seaman, being never heard to swear an oath ;---a circumstance too rarely met with,---and much to be lamented. The *Banyan*, who transacted his affairs, told me he rowed from
Ingelee

Ingelee down the *Ganges* in sight of his fleet,---after his victory over *Angria* ; but tempestuous weather coming on, obliged him to return, which was the last sight of that valuable victorious Squadron of seven sail. In the *Resolution* * he had immense wealth of the Portuguese, who were removing their families and effects from *Goa*, on account of an insurrection among the slaves ; this appears by the letters Mr. Bagwell writ from from *Malabar*,---for no soul survived him to tell the tale.——From the many services he did the *East-India Company*, in a servitude of 36 years, and at last, after a memorable victory, ended his life in that service ; one would imagine they would pay a charitable attention to his kindred,---but alas !

The inhabitants of this coast, are very different to those of *Bengal* and *Coromandel*, being rather savage than effeminate,---and the country barren than fertile :---the natives attribute the scarcity of every thing to their long intestine wars, but the land appears to me naturally sterile. There is a petty prince, who has a small tract of land, on this coast, the terror of the English, French, Dutch, and

* Mr. Bagwell failed in the year 1740 against *Angria*.

Portuguese : he is stiled the king of *Travancour*, and from repeated conquests is become dreaded. He's an active warrior, sensible and penetrating ; and from rewards and observance has brought the making of all military stores and implements to great perfection. Our Indian wars in the end will be like those of the Romans,----we shall beat Barbarians into such discipline, that they in the end will beat their masters. The different sects of idolaters are innumerable on these coasts, which makes it difficult to distinguish them by any particular name : were they of one opinion, the *Mahometans* would never reign over a people so superior in numbers. Here is a wandering tribe called *Faquirs*, who pass their lives in acts of penance, to be examples to the world of fortitude and constancy, and the greater they make their voluntary sufferings, they hope their state will be the more exalted hereafter. Some vow never to unclothe their hands, ---others to keep them stretched to heaven ; some never to sit or lye down ; and by prayer, penance, and fasting, they bring themselves to such a state of apathy, to be hardly called alive. Before I left *Bengal*, there was a rich man vowed he would measure, by his own lengths, the distance between *Calcutta* and *Ballafore*, which is a bout 300 miles, and did it. Here ignorance and superstition go hand

hand in hand,---or who could imagine a man would convert himself to a rod to measure the earth. Here is another sect who pay their addressee to the devil,--nor can I help thinking but there is some reason, and more humour in the thought,---adding, God is too good to hurt his own creatures,----and a wicked devil may be prevented by prayer. In short, they are so very extravagant in their beliefs, that I must destroy your's to tell you half I know.---The trading commodity of this coast is chiefly pepper, which is a creeper; the leaf like the vine, and the fruit grows in clusters: they plant it at the foot of a tall palm tree, or place poles for it to run up.---I hope you'll think this vegetable digression as *apropos* as the introduction of a farce at the theatre, after a *wonderful* deep tragedy, to relieve the minds of the audience-----

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R XVI.

To G. T. Esq;

St. Helena, May 30, 1755.

AFTER a passage of 85 days, (one and twenty of which were so dead a calm, that the very sea grew putrid) we are arrived at this small particle of earth, placed in the midst of an immense ocean, and so very remote from any thing terrestrial, that it surprizes me it is not washed away and dissolved in such a body of waters,---the basis is so very small, and the rock so perpendicular, that with our deepest line and plummet we can find no ground but in one place round this island, and there the bank is so small and steep, as not to admit of more than twelve sail of ships. It is distinguished to you by a single black dot on the general map, and 'tis hardly more on the sea, which makes it so difficult to find. The Dutch (who are not quite so alert navigators as the English) call it the *Butter* island; they say the sun melts it,---and though there may be some humour in the thought, yet 'tis a small apology for their want of vigilance. One would imagine the
 God

God of nature intended this spot for the recreation of seamen, in their long passage through these southern seas,---and as a guide to so small a place, gave a peculiar pidgeon to inhabit it, and direct the voyager. This bird rambles an hundred miles to windward, and nearly on an east and west line in the latitude of the island : an herald as pleasing to us, as that to *Noah* with the olive branch, being a certain indication we have not passed the isle : but what is still more extraordinary, these birds are never seen to leeward. The sailing into this port is romantic beyond description, the rocks being so lofty, and your ship passing so near them, they make a perfect canopy between you and the heavens. A vessel from the summit of these hills appears no bigger than her boat or buoy, and her men, like those in *Lear*, gathering samphire on the rocks of *Dover*: *St. Helena* is situated in the serenest clime I ever breathed in, and delightfully temperate,---not subject to either hurricanes or earthquakes, for one concussion would throw it down like a nine-pin, --and the water dissolve it like a lump of sugar. The surface is good mould, and would produce all kinds of grain, were it not infested with mice and rats, which devour it as soon as sown ;---the inhabitants, therefore, are

obliged to eat yams*, instead of bread, some part of the year; their meal and corn being brought annually in the store ships from England. Every family has two houses;---their town habitation being in St. James's valley, where they instantly repair at the arrival of a ship, to regale the sea gentry with the produce of their farms. Every house like *Bath*, is let out in lodgings,----and exorbitantly dear;---for as valetudinarians make one market,----the arrival of a scurvy fleet makes the other. Their profits are great, when you consider they all raise their whole stock, enjoy it with their lodgers, and make them likewise most extravagantly pay for it, which we Tars do with profuseness: for the short time we stay, the mind's in a perfect enchantment; the power of *Circe* o'er the companions of *Ulysses*, is not to be compared with our situation, nor her magick spells, with the intoxicating de-

* The yam is an esculent root, not unlike the potatoe,—the best of which comes from China. It is boiled, cut in slices, and eat as bread.—I prefer it to every root of the earth,—not to eat as bread,—but in the manner we do the potatoe: the juice of it before boiled, is of a very poisonous nature;—I have seen the experiment made upon cats

delights of *St. Helena* :----every thing appears like a scene of incantation, to an eye so long confined to sky and water,---a body corrupted with salt food,---and the jet beauties of *India* exchanged for the fairest goddesses. It is such a scene of rapture, that had that child of fancy, *Shakespeare*, beheld it, after such a voyage as ours, his descriptions and imagery Would (if possible) have surpassed every thing he has given us, for I may truly say with him,

“ The object and the pleasure of mine eye,

“ Is only *Helena*.-----

Midsummer-night's Dream.”

The women are delicately fair, and in general ornamented with that hair given to *Venus* and the *Graces* : from the bounties of the *China* gentlemen, their dresses have as much variety as the goldfinch,----and their behaviour amiable and endearing ;---in one word, no man ever came to *St. Helena*, but left his heart with a nymph of the island :---their study is to make you happy while you continue with them, and their good sense, and elegance of manners, assure them success. You'll say I'm captivated by the raptures of my stile, was I not, I should be a dull inanimate exception, where I would wish to be thought
other-

otherwise. I must confess here is a Miss G***th's surpasses all description,----a very *Calypso* to detain a young *Telemachus* ; and so entangle him in the web of love,-----that it would require the art and knowledge of *Mentor* to disengage him :----alas ! I hardly know how I shall escape ; to be precipitated from the top of one of these rocks, would be a fall as fatal as *Sappho's*, ending at once all love and heart-ach, unless some *Minerva*, or guardian genius saved me, to prove *Cambray's Telemachus* as true as moral.

Your's, &c.

L E T

L E T T E R XVII.

To L. L. Esq.

St. Helena, June 6, 1755.

IF a man can be intoxicated without liquor, I certainly am; and as much over head and ears in love, as ever swimming *Læander* was with his fair *Hero*. I believe the philtrum operates so strongly to even make a rhymmer of me, to make me even attempt a sonnet to my mistress's eye-brow.----I have heard them say, *Poeta nascitur non fit*,---but I believe love makes more men poets than nature;----the seeds of poetry would never rise in some bodies, were it not for the fire of love;----which plainly proves, without further altercation, love makes and conquers all. I shall not pretend my friend, to give you examples of *Dan Cupid's* power from *Hercules* and *Omphale*, to this and *St. Helena*; but I shall swear you lose the delights of *Enna*,---and the charms of *Proserpine*, by not being here.----O was I *Dis*, to pluck the fairest flower that ever grew!----but she's a divinity, and will only be forced to what she likes.---Excuse me!

tea is ready ;---she makes it,---you shall have the rest to-morrow.

Would one imagine it in the power of evil to make such a revolution,---such a catastrophe in twenty-four hours ! O my friend, I am expelled paradise : the sea is all before me where to roam.---I'm cabin'd, crib'd, confined : alas she's lost---and all the world with her !---It is thus with all the transitory blessings of this life ; they're painted fair to leave a bitterer grief.---the tale is thus :---a ball was given by the rival of Miss G. to which all were invited but us ;---a sufficient cause to raise the indignation of beauty, when raised for me to resent it.---Love is blind.---She proposed I should write a pasquinade, and place it on the door of her house, *Scribere jussit amor*.---Love bid me write, and folly made me do it ;---Two *Urchins*, as powerful here, (where one would not think it worth their while to ramble) as in *England*. In the morning it was read and copied by all the town, and the bantling laid to me :---a challenge from her hero was what I expected---and what I wished,---to convince my love, what lives I'd risk to only die with her. The glove came : ---we met, where she appeared more lovely than before ;

before;---but alas, her tenderness destroyed my happiness! she flew and acquainted my commander, (whose goodness was only inferior to her own) who was as assiduous to save as I to die for her. Thus, when ripe and ready to revenge her cause, I was secured,----borne on ship board and confined.---So the preserving my life, has preserved my misery. I now sit sighing to the rocks, and melancholy preying on my spirits.---I bid the gales speed my wishes to her ears!---but all, but grief avoid me.---The subsequent lines I have sent her they are my first;---and if they are poetry, remember love made them-----

To Miss G**ths.

O, had you let me fought and death my fate!

I had prefer'd it to this cruel state.

I'll bear a thousand racks, a thousand pains;

To live with you upon your sea-girt plains.

Who would have thought your tenderness
could prove,

The greatest mis'ry to the man you love!

Oh had I died! my griefs had ended there,

My tomb had leap'd for joy to catch your
tear:

In

In joy I'd sleep beneath your flow'ry sod,
And my poor ghost had kiss'd the ground you
trod.

I had been pity'd by the young and fair,
And had your daily morn and evening pray'r:
A joy beyond what life can ever prove,
When torn from her,-----from her I dearly
love.

O, ever lovely, ever virtuous tell!
Cannot, O cannot we have one farewell?
One kiss, one sigh, one mutual promise too,
One long embrace, One cruel last adieu?
Curse on the power of man,----the force of
arms.

That can detain me from thy heavenly
charms!

Why this superiority, ye slaves?
Why hold me here, ye tyrants of the waves?
O had I Sampson's strength I'd force my
way,

Or with me bury those who held my stay!
O let me try the deep! e'en there I can
Find with the fish a better friend than man!
Think ye that fish are half so hard as ye!
There's friendship 'mongst the monsters of
the sea.

Come, painted Dolphin, spare thy gen'rous
aid,

And, like *Arion*, bear me to my maid:

See,

See, where he comes ! blush ye unfeeling
souls ;

He vows to swim me 'tween the distant
poles.

The pigeons too---observe their feeling sense !
Offer their silver wings to wing me hence.

Monsters are gentle, kind, but man poor
fool,

Is grown a savage having power to rule.

Then, since 'tis thus,-----come hither fish,
and birds,

And jointly bear her----these last parting
words.

“ Tell her I love her, while the clouds
“ drop rain,

“ Or while there's water in the pathless
“ main.

“ Tell her I love her 'till this life is o'er,

“ And then my ghost shall visit this sweet
“ shore :

“ Tell her I only ask,-----she'll think of
“ me,

“ I'll love her while there's salt within the
“ sea :

“ Tell her all this ; tell her it o'er and o'er :

“ The anchor's weighed or I would tell her
“ more.”

Farewell.

H

L E T-

L E T T E R XVIII.

To H. M. Esq

Plymouth, August 2, 1755.

NOTHING can be dearer to me than you, and the sight of my native country ; and I flatter myself nothing can give you more pleasure than the news of our arrival. It would be the highest injustice in me not to embrace the earliest opportunity, to mention the kindneſſes of Captain Ward-----to whom I'm ſo much indebted, that I could wiſh you would acknowledge my ſenſe of his care and friendſhip. Our voyage has been quick, and ſucceſſful, tho' I think every thing at ſea and on ſhore wear the air of war. We were four large ſhips in company, and richer far than ſtrong, being weakly mann'd, by deaths and defections. We ſhould have been a *dewoccur* for the French, and very eaſy prizes ; but an Engliſh cruizer diſpelled our fears, and conducted us under the ſhade of *Mount-Edgecomb*, which has romantick beauties peculiar to itſelf,----and inferior to none.

The

The garden hangs upon a rock so high,
 That looking down offends the aching eye :
 In vain hoarse waves assail the pleasant seat,
 Yet give a motion to the British fleet ;
 Which, from the lofty mount, appear to be
 Mere little cock-boats dancing on the sea.
 There rolls the ocean,-----where an hundred
 sail

Steer different courses with the same fresh
 gale.

Like busy bees to various ports repair,
 To get a cargo or to leave one there.
 On the left-hand's the dock, where hurry
 reigns..

And sounds of hammers clatter thro' the
 plains.

Some ships unrig'd some rigging and again
 Some building, and some fit to try the main :
 Some on their cruizes move with stately pride,
 And guns and ports chequer the painted side :
 Her canvass wings the gentle breezes court,
 Firm as her noble crew she quits the port,
 To fight her country's wrong-----and as she
 past,

From either side burst forth a horrid blast,
 Of fire and smoak which such a thunder
 made,

That all but such a crew might be afraid :

The very atmosphere confess'd the roar,
 Whilst she unshaken past the trembling shore.

These verses will confirm all your fears,-----
 for in spite of advice, restraint, and threats,
 nature will prevail, and I must be poetical in
 spite of my stars: for poetry is like oil in wa-
 ter,-----ever at top: what will be the conse-
 quence, time will declare,----your dread is
 poverty,----a dread I've little conception of,
 when I flatter myself with the grand prize in
 the *Heliconian* lottery. You will think I talk
 with too much poetical confidence of myself:
 all poets are vain, and young ones most so,---
 but we are all more or less partial to the babes
 of our own brains,----not that I think I'm
 sprung from the head of *Minerva*, because
 she sprung from the head of her father:----
 no, I'm proud of being her son,-----who was
 happy in being sister to you. This is a plea-
 sing theme to me, and more so when I recol-
 lect the little cautions and methods you made
 use of to divert me to some more useful study:
 how you discharged all poetry from your libra-
 ry, in hopes of extinguishing those sparks
 which had appeared so early;---but the clas-
 sical fuel given by the learned Dr. Cox*, in
 my

* This worthy gentleman kept the celebrated
 school at *Harrow*, but by an unhappy marriage
 one of his amiable daughters made, (unknown to

my scholastic hours, rather raised the flame than decreased it. And since I am resolved to tell you every thing, he often lamented your easy disposition in giving way to my juvenile desires of a sea-life: for *me juxta ire per altum*, was all I writ and all I thought of. All boys, more or less possess romantic ideas of ambition, and travels:---we are all *Don Quixots* in our youth,---and all build our castles in the air,---and those whimsical notions are often encreased by our first books: I must own the campaigns of *Charles XII.* debauched me to be as mad as himself.---The fatigues and dangers have not in the least altered my intentions of following a sea life; but there are other disagreeable circumstances which fulfil the saying,----“ If he’s good for nothing “ send him to sea” From such expressions, one would imagine all seamen were brutes, but we find it often contradicted by men of amiable characters,----and

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much

the father) with Mr. Pen, a youth under his care, incensed that family to ruin his school.---The young gentleman was sent to *Philadelphia*, nor never more permitted to see a wife he dearly loved: --- a lady with every virtue and accomplishment.---These misfortunes brought Dr. Cox to *Hampstead*, about the year 1749; --- he afterwards moved to *Kensington*, where he died in the year 1757.

(82)

much so in him I have the happiness to be placed with. Our ship at present is a perfect Indian market, the dealers continually going and coming, like industrious ants, laying up their winter store. You may be certain my venture is reserved for you, if it escapes the harpies of the customs ; for nothing can equal the happiness of presenting them to the best of parents.

Yours, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XIX.

To J. T. Esq.

Sterling Castle in the Downs,

November, 1755.

I HAVE a thousand doubts whether you'll be pleased or dissatisfied with my conduct, when I tell you I've quitted penury and commerce, for arms and glory: but I am confident you cannot accuse me with inattention, when you find me but one week on shore after an India voyage. I know not what apology to make for so precipitate a change, unless a spirit of serving my country will admit of an excuse. Prizes are brought in here every day, and we, with a flying squadron, have traversed every drop of water between *Dover* and *Calais*, in full quest of flat-bottom'd boats,---tho' they are as far in the country as you are in Yorkshire. Youth and good spirits will conquer the greatest difficulties; but the sea life is so opposite to our idea of human nature, that I am astonished so many engage in the pursuit, when so few

few approve it.---If I have met with one tar who was uneasy on shore, I have found thousands in a worse situation at sea. Besides the disagreeable circumstances and situations attending a subaltern officer in the navy, are so many and so hard, that had not the first men in the service passed the dirty road to preferment, to encourage the rest, they would renounce it to a man. It is a most mistaken notion that a youth, will not be a good officer unless he stoops to the most menial offices; to be bedded worse than hogs and eat less delicacies. In short from having experienced such scenes of filth and infamy, such fatigues and hardships they are sufficient to disgust the stoutest and the bravest;---for alas ! there is only a little hope of promotion sprinkled in the cup, to make a man swallow more than he digests the rest of his life. The state of inferior officers in his majesty's service is a state of vassalage, and a lieutenant's preferment the greatest in it,---the change is at once from a filthy maggot to a shining butterfly: many methods might be introduced to make the lower officers of more consequence on their duty, and their lives more agreeable to themselves:----for that power of reducing them to sweep the decks, being lodged in the breast of a captain, is often abused through passion or caprice: besides,

fides, it is too despotic an authority to exercise on a man, who has the feelings of an Englishman : we are likewise to recollect, that all commanders of men of war are not gentlemen or men of education.---I know a great part are brave men, but a much greater, seamen. I allow the maxim of learning to obey, before we command ourselves : but still there is no reason to be vulgar ; for we are to consider these young people are the active machines of duty, the wheels which give motion to the main body,---and it is absolutely necessary to give them authority in their office, to carry on the duties of the ship,---but rendering them low in the eyes of the people, creates a contempt for midshipmen in general, and turns that necessary respect due to them into contempt.-----I propose to warrant this body of volunteers, and make them answer to the board of admiralty for their conduct : they should possess a third table in the ship, and have the countenance of their superiors : this would enliven their servitude, and make them of consequence on their duty. The command of a lieutenant is great, and on his watch he too often breaks through the bounds of good manners and decency : it is a power so extensive that when placed in the breast of a weak man, may be greatly abused : 'tho' there is already such a reformation,

reformation in the British navy, as would even remove these satyrical epithets so generally made use of to their disrepute. The last war, a chaw of tobacco, a rattan, and a rope of oaths, were sufficient *qualifications* to constitute a lieutenant: but now education and good manners are the study of all: and so far from effeminacy that I am of opinion the present race of officers will as much eclipse the veterans of 1692, as the polite, the vulgar. My intention in giving these hints, are for the benefit of my cousin, who is determined on this life. He may depend on it, I will not omit a circumstance for his advantage, but make a fair side of debtor and creditor. I will give him a letter of advice for his conduct,-----which I hope will convince him how much I am his friend, and

Your's, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XX.

To J. T. Junior.

Portsmouth May 21, 1756.

THIS day we have declared war against the French, a war, which I hope may prove glorious to my country, and honourable to the navy. I find you are absolutely determined to follow a sea life, I therefore beg your attention to the subsequent advice, for your service and future conduct.

You now live under the care and protection of a most indulgent parent, where you enjoy all the blessings this world can afford, and his paternal affection: these you must lose immediately on your launching into the sea service, and tho' a youth, you will be under the necessity of commencing your own guardian. Here are no back doors through which you can make your escape, nor any human bosoms to alleviate your feelings; at once you resign a good table for no table, and a good bed for your length and breadth: nay, it will be thought an indulgence too, to let you sleep where day ne'er enters, and where fresh air
only

only comes when forced. You must get up every four hours,---for they never forget to call you, tho' you may forget to rise ; but when you begin, I wish you to be vigilant and active. Your light for day and night is a small candle, which is often struck at the side of your platter at meals, for want of a better convenience: your victuals are salt, and often bad, and if you vary the mode of dressing them, you must cook yourself ; I would recommend you always to have tea and sugar ; the rest you must trust to, for you'll scarce find room for any more than your chest and hammock, and the latter at times you must carry upon deck to defend you from small shot, unless you keep one of the sailors in fee with a little brandy, (which is a good friend at sea) but always drink it mixed with water. In the most inclement weather, you are the most required as an example, and to see the duty properly executed, you must be at the extream parts of the masts and yards. When you begin, be resolute and persevere, but consider it well before you engage, for these are only faint sketches, when compared with reality.

The two first rules I would have you observe, are these : first Avoid low company :
secondly,

secondly, Hold-fast ! One is material for the preservation of the soul, the other of the body. Low company is the most fatal rock to a young mariner, and nothing can save you from it but a necessary pride, which must be supported in spite of all the lures thrown out by vice to corrupt and debauch you : you'll find it a noble conquest, and by avoiding it, obtain the esteem of your superiors, and the respect of inferiors ; nothing can recommend and promote you so soon ; and on the other hand nothing so soon degrade and ruin you. Low company is the bane of all young men, but in a man of war, you have the collected filths of Jails : condemned criminals have the alternative of hanging or entering on board. There's not a vice committed on shore but is practised here ; the scenes of horror and infamy on board of a man of war, are so many and so great, that I think they must rather disgust a good mind than allure it. I do not mean by this advice, to have you appear a dull inactive being, that shudders amidst these horrors ; no, I would wish you to see them in their own proper shapes,---for to be hated they need but to be seen : pass thro' them with vivacity, but never let them lay hold of you. You will find some little outward appearance of religion,---and Sunday
I prayers !

prayers!---but the congregation is generally drove together by the boatswain (like sheep by the shepherd) who neither spares oaths or blows. In spite of all those you may be good, your church and religion must be in your own breast,---and tho' every thing is in hurry and noise, yet you may always have time enough to address a supreme BEING, with all that fervency of soul the good seek him with : and in such a miserable situation of trial,---how glorious the conquest ! Put all your trust and confidence in GOD, for no principles but those of religion, are sufficient to constitute a great man ; for believe me in various situations of sea life, you'll find your own strength but feeble ; and if you depend on Heaven, Heaven will never disown you. Supposing you possess a natural courage, you'll find that courage a brutal one, when carried into wrath and revenge : a practical courage is the best, and a courage of that kind must be obtained by good acts, experience and a perfect reliance upon God. You know you set out with the ambitious hope of commanding ; consequently, when you obtain that preferment, you must possess ability superior to those you govern, which can only be attained by integrity of heart, study, manners, sobriety, diligence and experience.

The

The studies I would have you pursue before you leave home, are these : a sufficient knowledge of your own language, to speak it politely, and write it correctly, which cannot be attained without some Latin ; and when you have once got the rudiments of that language, you will find leisure time enough on board to make yourself more perfect. Of the living languages apply yourself to the French ; it is universally spoke and understood, and it will give you a superiority where ever you go. Never be bashful, but speak it with confidence upon all occasions : no man ever spoke it fluently at first ; it must be time and use which can perfect a work of that nature. If you have opportunity, learn likewise the Spanish and Italian : if mathe-
matics draw your attention more, don't skim along the surface, but dive to the very bottom ; for the sea service may be productive of many useful discoveries for the good of navigation in general, and for your own pleasure, honour and emolument. But, to qualify you sufficiently for a seaman, you will find the theory as taught in schools, enough for your purpose, and the practical part will be soon accomplished at sea, unless that part which depends on experience ; for 'tis a

just observation, that a sailor has always something to learn,---every voyage producing new circumstances.---Drawing, fortification, surveying coasts, and harbours, are most necessary qualifications; and for more light accomplishments, fencing and dancing. Musical instruments are sufficiently tormented in all ships; I would have you leave them for books.---All these should be attained before fifteen, (unless you go to Portsmouth academy) for you must serve six years before you are entitled to an examination at the Navy-Office, to qualify you for the rank of lieutenant or master: twenty or twenty one, is as soon as I would wish you to take charge of a watch: to conduct yourself well in that circle requires great abilities and attention. It is a mistaken notion, that any blockhead will make a seaman: yet I confess there are many men of illiberal parts who call themselves seamen, as any other occupation can boast of. In short, it is so diametrically opposite, that I do not know one situation in life that requires so accomplished an education as the sea officer. To shine in the character, (which we hope every man has ambition enough to wish) he should be a man of letters and languages, a mathematician, and an accomplished gentleman. The variety of countries

countries he visits, the numbers he has to govern, and the long absence from the female world, give him more occasion for a good education, than any other employ. The army is an academy,---the sea makes them as boisterous as the very element; therefore they require more; for the least acquaintance with the liberal sciences, softens the manners of men and makes them less savage.

-----Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes
Emollit mores, nec finit esse feros.

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R XXI.

To J. T. Junior.

Torbay, June 19, 1756.

WE are now going down the British Channel with money and troops for the continent of *North America*;---but before we depart, I beg your attention a little longer.---In my last, I pointed out to you a plan of education, and the fatal consequences of low company. I now recommend you to avoid sleep and indolence when your watch is expired, which is practised by those who have neither ability or attention to amuse themselves by more improving studies. In such intervals, I would have you pursue your scholastic education : in your journal delineate the head lands and coasts you see.---with their bearings and distances, and all other observations that may occur ; for you cannot make too many, in order to acquire the character of an able seaman. Every day observe the ship's run upon some Mercator's chart, the variation of the compass, the setting of currents, &c. &c. but I would rather have you project a map for that purpose :---besides taking off the common daily occurrences of the log-board,

log-board, keep an historical journal, after the manner of our best voyagers: in which insert the description of places, the manners, customs, habits, languages, worship, and poliey of men; the produce culture, and manufactory of each country; the curiosities, phenomena, birds, beasts, fish, vegetables, and minerals of each place, &c. &c. From such observation, we have collected our histories of foreign countries, and tho' they be ever so puerile; you can correct and embellish them in maturer years; the observations which strike you will be ever good and true; for an elegance in writing must arise from polite converse, experience and reading.---As you will be much distressed for room on shipboard, and your library a moving one, you must endeavour to have it small and select. The books I recommend you to study in the Latin, are,---Erasmus, Cicero, Justin, Terence, Virgil, Ovid and Horace. In the Frennch, Les Revolutions D' Angleterre par la Pere D'Orleans, Cyrus Telemachque, Les Revolutions Romain, Lettres de Rabutin, Histoire de Charles XII. Roi de Sude, Boileau et Molier. In the Spanish, you will do well, to read *well*, the agreeable Vida y hechos del in genioso Cavallero Don Quixote. In English, the History of your own Country, the Spectatators and Tatlers,

Tatlers, the Lives of the most eminent men, (whose great and good actions ever keep before you ; do not trust them to memory, but keep a book for the insertion of all those historical noble passages that please, which will be a means of ever retaining them.) In poetry, Dryden, Spencer, Otway, Prior, Gay, Swift, Pope, Milton, and the Bible, which I wish to be last read, to be better understood:---for nothing certainly can be so absurd as to hear an old country dame teaching children what she don't understand herself; from the methods which are thus pursued, neither the Bible is comprehended nor admired, tho' the noblest poem in the English language. We have likewise a variety of books of morality, and the best Sermons are Tillotsons, Barrows, and Atterbury's. I would likewise have you apply yourself to the pleasing study of *Natural Philosophy*, proceeding leisurely from the history of meteors, minerals, plants, and living creatures, as far as Anatomy. I hope from these few epistolary hints, you will receive some advantage, and if you practise them, be assured you will be an honour to the navy. It is now the happy taste of the present age, to admire men of erudition and manners ; as a proof, we are presented with many of the *nobility*. To say we did not navigate and fight our ships well
in

in the reign of Queen ELIZABETH, would be untruth ; but from that age to this, we have been as unpolished and rough as the element. It will bear no kind of argument to advance, that ignorance can act better than accomplished knowledge. I will venture to say, that the gentlemen of the navy will bring more laurels to their country, than were ever brought in any former time.——My last advice is, not to be too hasty in your choice of companions, nor to be captivated with the outward appearances of mankind, and smooth flattering speeches ; act always upon the reserve before a stranger : sift and canvass him well, before you take him to your bosom : preserve a secret when entrusted to you, tho' of the most trifling consequence : accustom yourself to it, for he that betrays his friend, deserves to be betrayed : be very slow to give offence, and when really injured, act with fortitude : be ready to forgive, and endeavour to forget the errors of others : be rather prone to praise than censure : be warm on a man's virtues, and silent on his follies : tell the truth upon all occasions, fallacious equivocations are stabs to a man's character : never drink to excess, nor let crimes committed in liquor pass unnoticed : observe the medium betwen penury and profuseness, and shun gaming, like a
 sunken

funken rock. These will prevent impositions, for on board of a ship, you must be prepared against the sensible pleasant villain, and the low thief. Cherish the brave and honest; for in the navy you will find many worth your warmest friendship. These paths lead to a steep ascent, but when you gain the summit, you will look down with pleasure on your conquest, finding yourself at once a comfort to your parents, a friend to society, an honour to the navy, and a glory to your country. Applaud the sensible gentleman whenever and wherever you meet him and despise the dissolute and abandoned with,

Your sincere friend, &c.

The End of the FIRST VOLUME.

Sailor's Letters.

WRITTEN TO HIS

SELECT FRIENDS IN ENGLAND,

DURING HIS

VOYAGES and TRAVELS

IN

EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, and AMERICA.

FROM THE YEAR 1754 to 1759.

BY

EDWARD THOMPSON,

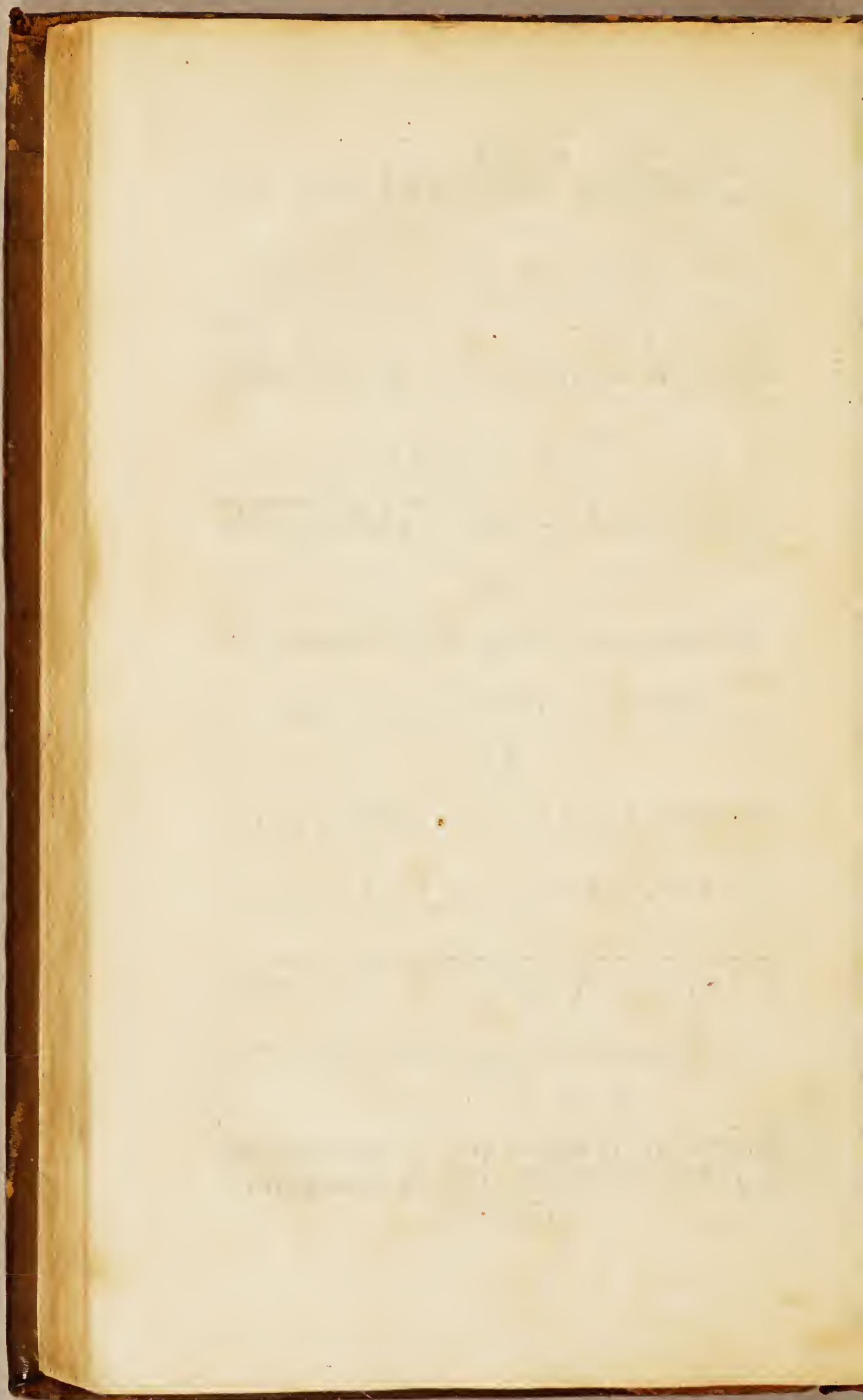
LIEUTENANT OF THE NAVY.

V O L II.

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MDCCLXX.



LETTERS.

LETTER XXII.

To H. M. Esq;

New York, August 15, 1756.

I NEVER was so much surpris'd as in finding this part of the world superior to England:--the air is serene and the land fertile: peaches, nectarines, apples, and all other fruits peculiar to the soil of Europe, grow wild in the woods, and only feed the particular beasts which inhabit them: I cannot say the taste is quite so exquisite and delicious, which I suppose may be owing to the want of grafting and transplanting,--but the appearance looks so much like the golden age, and the first state of nature, that I could almost determine to spend the remainder of my life here. The river leading to the city of *New York*, runs a considerable way into the country, but has a bar at the mouth, which

VOL. II. K prevents

prevents the entrance of very large ships :--- the lands are cultivated as far as the eye can range from the banks, and the cottages inhabited with a variety of people from Germany, Holland, &c. *New-York* * is an island, situated about 30 miles up *Hudson's* river, bounded by *Long Island* on the east, and *Staten Island* on the south. The nobleness of the town surprised me more than the fertile appearance of the country. I had no idea of finding a place in *America* consisting of near 2000 houses, elegantly built of brick, raised on an eminence, and the streets paved and spacious ; furnished with commodious keys and warehouses, and employing some hundreds of vessels in its foreign trade and fisheries ;---but such is this city, that a very few in England can rival it in show, gentility and hospitality. It is a royal government, and the officers appointed by the crown. There are very few Indians on this island, being all either cut off by intestine wars or diseases :--- the laborious people, in general, are *Guinea* negroes, who lie under particular restraints, from the attempts they have made, to massacre the inhabitants for their LIBERTY, which

* In the latitude of $40^{\circ} 40'$ North, and longitude $73^{\circ} 59'$ West from the Meridian of London.

which is ever desired by those (you find) who never knew the enjoyment of it. I cannot quit this colony, without taking notice of a very particular cataract, which forms a prodigious arch, and (according to the eye) may fall about 150 feet;---but what is more extraordinary, the mist, which is occasioned by the fall, on a sunny day, forms a most delightful rainbow, and may be seen twelve miles off. These are romantic stories told of this cataract. but I am resolved to relate no more than I have seen. The *Iroquois* often appear here on business, and their appearance is more savage than I can describe.---I cannot help telling you the ceremony of burying their dead:---all the relations paint their faces black, and twice a day make a most wretched lamentation over the grave; the time of the mourning consists with the continuation of the black face, which is never washed, out of respect to the dead. The corpse is placed upright on a seat, --and his gun, bows arrows and money buried with him, to furnish him with shooting implements in the next world, where they believe is more game than in *America*,---and that the delightful country lies a long way *westward*.---They have priests among them called *Parawus*, who, if it is possible, make they wretches more ignorant

than nature meant them to be. My stay, tho' very short here, has been attended with a most disagreeable circumstance. When about three leagues from the ship, the boat's crew (consisting of ten men) rose on me, bound me hand and foot, and run the boat on shore, ---where I might have perished, had not two returned and unbound me, which two I brought to the ship again. They confess'd they had attempted to throw me over-board (which I never perceived) but something always prevented :---had they perpetrated their villany, I should have died by the mouths of some thousands of sharks,---as I was at that time fishing on a bank, where nothing could be more numerous. This is so striking an act of the hand of Providence, that had it happened to an atheistical person, it might have been the happy means of converting him. From hence we are bound to the West Indies, which is a secret which never transpired till the day of our departure. I am a little chagrined at the circumstance, not being provided for so long a voyage.

I am, &c.

P. S. We have now 150 people ill in fluxes, scurvies and fevers.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXIII.

To G. T. Esq;

Antigua, September 22. 1756.

WE are happily arrived here after a very tempestuous passage. meeting in the latitude of 26° North, with a violent storm, which continued 48 hours,---in which we sprung our masts, and a leak which had nearly drowned us all :---the few people who were well, being quite fatigued with standing at the pumps, declared (when the ship had five feet water in her hold) they would rather sink than pump any longer : upon which Mr. Cornish showed a most gallant spirit, and swore he would put the first man to death that refused : this happy menace cleared the ship, the storm subsided, and we repaired all damages. In passing the tropick of Cancer, we observed the old sea custom of ducking those who had never been across that latitude :---the same is observed on the equinoctial ;---but from whence this watery ceremony arose, I am at a loss to determine ; it has certainly been practised ever since we have any account of ships making southern voyages, and might as well arise from the

fabulous poetical story told by OVID of *Dædalus* and *Icaris*, as from any other: the youth being drowned in this parallel of latitude, in making his escape with his father, from the wrath of *Minos*, in a ship prepared by *Pasiphae*, which having only oars, the ingenious *Dædalus* invented sails,---*nam ponit in ordine pennas*; the use of which (*Pausanias* tells us) was not then known in *Greece*, and OVID's fancy converted them into wings: so in compliment to the first inventor of sails, or canvass wings, this custom of ducking is preserved,---and so rough a one, that no man can forget it that undergoes it.

The island of *Antigua** is of a circular form, about 62 miles in circumference, very mountainous, and particularly distinguished by two lofty hills. Upon the top of the most considerable one (which is called Monk's hill) is a battery of 33 guns, which is the last retreat the inhabitants can make when defeated. Having no springs on this hill, they have erected tanks, or reservoirs for rain water, which contain upwards of 2448 tons. The inhabitants are about 10,000 whites, and 15,000 blacks. *Saint John* is the principal town, containing upwards of 500 houses, built

* One of the *Carribbee* isles in the latitude 17° 30' North, longitude 60° 35' West of London.

built of wood, and very low, on account of the violent hurricanes :---the streets are wide, but not paved ; and provisions of all kinds excessively dear, 18 s. being a common price for a turkey, which are brought, and almost every thing else, in the lumber vessels from *America*. In a dry season water is often dearer than claret ;---for upon this isle there is but one spring, which is medicinal, and alternately hot and cold, twice every 24 hours. All the good living is amongst the planters in the country. Where, if you are a Scotsman you may be well entertained. The planter struts a petty king amidst his slaves, and has his black seraglio :---in general, they are haughty, ignorant, and cruel, which arises from that despotick government over their poor slaves, who are whipped, and drove by the lash, like cattle. The greatest part of the estates on the island are conducted by overseers, the most of which are Scotsmen ; who perhaps have been transported to *Virginia*, and from thence escaped to rule here. These islands are certainly the happiest azylums for fugitives and convicts, and at once answer the purpose of exile and utility ; for these rotten members of society, in time wear out the stains of banishment and disgrace, amass plentiful fortunes, and leave prodigal heirs to squander them away. Here England saves herself

herself a great expence, ——— and surpasses the people of *Athens*, who had built cities and palaces for those who had done things, who had rendered them obnoxious to the laws. *Cadmus* had his at *Thebes* ; and *Romulus* erected one upon mount *Capitolinus* ; but these were all maintained at the expence of the state ; whereas, England finds great riches arising from subjects she had absolutely thrown off and renounced. These light gentlemen treat us, who are come to defend their island, by the genteel appellation of alien and foreigner ; and have good manners enough to give public affronts to every officer under Mr. Frankland ; but still are so happy in their good manners, as never to meet those who have spirit to meet them.

I am, &c.

P. S. Duels are very frequently fought here, out of pistol shot.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXIV.

To L. L. Esq;

English Harbour, in the Island of
Antigua, October 21, 1756.

WITH the strictest truth I may call this one of the most infernal places on the face of the globe, tho' a commodious harbour in this part of the world, for refitting of shipping: it is surrounded with high hills, which obstruct the air, and renders it uncommonly unwholesome: I have been long declining with the white flux, and for recovery, stuffed into a small room with 26 people; ---but now in better health; I officiate as chaplain, and bury eight men in a morning. Fluxes and fevers are the reigning distempers, and both I attribute to the water drank by the seamen,---which is taken out of tanks or cisterns, built by admiral Knowls; it is all rain water, and covered close up, which, for want of air, breeds poisonous animalcula, and becomes foul and putrid.---The melancholy effects it produces, might in a great manner be prevented, by boiling the water before it is issued, or ordering the people to do it;---this would destroy these vermin, and
correct

correct the putrefaction. I am convinced, from long observation, that most of the distempers in southern climates arise from the water drank,---as ship sicknesses do from the bilge water, which is evidently proved in leaky ships being always healthful;---I therefore recommend to all officers, naval and mercantile, to let in salt water every day, and boil their flesh, for the good of themselves and cargoes.

We have a general visit every Sunday from the negroes of the different parts of the island, who hold, in all other places as well as here, their markets on the Sabbath,---being the only day of relaxation they are indulged with by the tyrants they are slaves to: the disagreeable smell of their bodies is so great, that I have smelt when the wind set off from that quarter, a negro market a mile or more. But bad smells don't hurt the sailor's appetite, each man possessing a temporary lady, whose pride is her constancy to the man she chooses, and in this particular they are strictly so. I have known 350 women sup and sleep on board on a Sunday evening, and return at day break to their different plantations. I don't know what to compare this charcoal seraglio to: in numbers we beat the *Turk*;---in constancy the world;---but, in beauty,
we

we submit to the fair *Circassians*. These poor slaves bring with them fruit, vegetables and milk, which they exchange for bread and beef. The planters generally allow them a small barren spot of ground, which as soon as they have well tilled, they take to themselves, and give them another: they live in wretched thatched hovels, and after their daily labour, sleep on a board: their fires are in the middle of their huts, which have no chimneys, the smoke creating warmth, and also keeps out the musquitos: their dress in general, is no more than a cloth round the middle,---unless the mistresses of great Dons, who wear silks and calicoes. There is a most wretched epidemical distemper amongst these unhappy mortals (called the Yaws) which when it appears on a slave, he is immediately drove from the society of the rest: his victuals are left in a particular place, not being allowed any communication with the other negroes: thus wandering for months about the fields, and dying by degrees, they become at last a prey to the birds of the air. I am sorry I cannot say any thing pleasant of this place, but to-morrow we sail for *Barbadoes*, from whence, I hope, I may entertain you with more pleasing accounts.

I am, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXV.

To -----

Barbadoes*, December 5, 1756.

THIS island looks more like a christian country, than any of the Caribbees: every spot of it is cultivated, and cleared of wood: it is about 30 miles long, and 16 broad:---to the eastward, it is defended by rocks, and the south-west point forms a large bay for shipping, in which the chief place is erected, (called Bridge-Town.) The town is very extensive and well built, and the merchant's houses elegant. Every thing is dear but flying fish, (which are called *Barbadoe's Pigeons*) all other provisions are brought from *New England*, unless what the planters raise for their own use. The inhabitants are more easy, hospitable and kind, than on the other islands; but yet have that volatile spirit so peculiar to the Creole. The cruel tyranny exercised over the slaves, is shocking to humanity:---a most horrid instance of which, was acted here the other day by a mistress to her

* Situated in the *Atlantick* ocean, in the latitude 12° 58' North, longitude 58° 45' West.

her female slave: the girl had committed some trivial domestic error: upon which she commanded four of her servants to hold her down to the ground, while she absolutely exulted in smiles, and dropped hot sealing wax on the different parts of the back, till the poor creature expired in the most excruciating tortures.

— Was you accustomed to live with the planter's ladies, you would not be surpris'd at any cruelty, for they are taught in their very infancy, to flog with a whip the slave that offends them. The negroes, in general, come from the coast of *Guinea*, which makes their manners and superstitions alike,---altho' I never knew they had the least idea of any worship, till I was acquainted by Doctor Hill of this place, who told me he had many *African* negroes brought him in the hypocondriack state, which neither medicine nor advice could palliate, and that he had no other recourse in such cases, but in sending for a negro priest, who would perswade the patient, after having exercised a number of legerdemain tricks, that he had extracted toads, serpents and birds from his body,---which being concealed about him he produces them at pleasure;---after such an operation, you'll see the superstitious wretch revive, and in a few days, return in spirits to his labour. They very

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often

often, in their thefts, meet with a string of rags hung out to frighten the birds from fresh-sown feed;---this they call their god *Obia*, who they believe, has detected them,---and is very often a means of their confessing the crime they have committed, or becoming splenetic ; imagining that all their food is poison, which operates so strongly on their weak minds as even to kill them in a few months. In all climates, and in all ages, ignorance and superstition have gone hand in hand, and wherever they have predominately prevailed, they have effectually ruined the people. The Try-all sloop, having just engaged a ship, bound to *Martinique*, (in which action the Frenchman blew up) calls us in a great hurry to sea, where we hope to meet with a fleet long expected.

I am, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXVI.

To H. M. Esq ;

St. John's, Antigua,

February 16, 1757.

WE are just returned from a long disagreeable cruise, without preferment, honor or emolument. The infrequency of French ships in these western seas, must certainly be owing to your circumspection at home ; for nothing can exceed our foreign vigilance, but your domestic attention. About six weeks ago, we left the island of *Dominico** where we went for wood and water.-----It is one of the most fruitful isles in these seas, but mountainous and woody. Its inhabitants are chiefly French ;---the residue Indians, who inhabit the most wild inaccessible parts : the coffee, cotton, and cocoa, produced in this island, exceed any other raised in the West Indies. The *Coffee* grows on a shrub about as high as a currant bush, with a dark green leaf like the bay tree ; it is propagated from seeds, which should be sown soon after they

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are

* Latitude of 15° 25 North, longitude 59° 50 West of London.

are gathered. They have the finest plantations of it in this island I ever saw.

The *Cocoa* resembles our cherry-tree ; the fruit is enclosed in a yellow pod, about the bigness of a cucumber, beginning and ending in a point. In the inside is a number of white fibres ; in the middle of these are contained 12 seeds or grains of a brown colour, each grain is covered with a little bark ; in the middle is the *Cocoa*, which separates into five or six unequal parts, and after grinding and dissolving in hot water, forms a viscous tenacious paste ; a solution of which makes an agreeable liquor called *Chocola'e*.

The *Cotton* shrub grows about five feet from the ground, with a leaf sharpened like the currant, but something larger ; it bears a beautiful yellow flower like the daffodil, which, when withered, discovers a pod in shape and size of a pigeon's egg, wherein is contained the cotton :---of this shrub are large plantations, and when blooming, it makes a pleasing appearance.

The *Manzanillo* (commonly called the *Manzanil*) grows like the pear tree, and bears a most beautiful apple of the rankest poison. One would imagine, from its delightful tempting

ing appearance and the bad consequence of the taste, that it was the tree so fatal to our first mother,---which being of beautiful aspect, and a poisonous nature, *Adam* forbid her to eat thereof,---but *Eve*, having a *longing* inclination to gratify herself, where she was enjoined to forbear, plucked the fruit of that forbidden (poisonous) tree,---“ whose mortal taste brought death into the world, and all our woe.”---In short, I suppose it blistered her mouth, which *Adam* removed by the application of the WHITE CEDAR, a tree always growing near, and meant by the God of Nature as an immediate antidote to so fatal and so tempting a poison.

The *Ficus Indicus*, called by the negros, the *Prickly-Pear*, grows wild in all those western isles, and serves them for good fences, growing very high, and full of long bearded thorns, which will pierce the sole of a shoe : ---it bears a beautiful red flower, fringed with white ;---the fruit has a most delicious taste, and of a deep purple colour, which according to the quantity eat, will more or less tinct the water.

The *Calabash* is a lofty spreading tree, the leaf in smell and shape much of your nec-

garine:---it has a most happy domestick quality in this country, producing drinking vessels for those who have not ingenuity to make them : it bears a globular fruit as big as a man's head, upon the bark of which the negroes carve a thousand true lover's knots and flourishes,---and when the pith is taken out, it serves for variety of household uses.

I wish this arborous epistle may divert you ; but if I am deficient in the proper terms, I hope my extraordinary observations may, in some degree, compensate for a want of that necessary, happy obscurity, peculiar to all arborists and botanists.

I am, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXVII.

To L. L. Esq.

Tobago*, March 11, 1757.

THO' we are continually moving from island to island, nevertheless it affords no variety, for there is a sameness in the Creole,---and an equal inhospitality in the country. *Tobago* is an entire wood, but a fine rich soil, and worthy the attention of the islanders to clear it: the bays are well stocked with a variety of fish, and the woods with all kinds of fowl. The only inhabitants upon it are Indians, and a few French, who occasionally come from *Martinique* on turtle fishing. These savages are very shy, and at the same time very inoffensive; for, unless you disturb their little town, they will offer no violence to you. They are of a bright olive colour, and go almost naked, bearing no other arms than the bow and arrow; they subsist entirely by fishing and shooting, at which they are uncommonly expert;---the greatest present you can make them, is knives and

* Is in the latitude of 11° 10' North being 45 leagues N. by E. half E. of Barbadoes.

and trinkets the first for domestic uses, the second for the ornament of their ladies,---who are as active as the men, but less agreeable in appearance. This island abounds with a greater variety of animals than any other, partly owing to its proximity to the continent of *South America*, and being less frequented and disturbed. No place abounds more with snakes and serpents, which nevertheless are inoffensive; I have seen many of various sizes, which were as ready to retire from me, as I from them. The *Armadillo*, or Hog in armour, is frequently found here; it is a most harmless creature and feeds upon insects: the coat of mail which covers the back, defends it from the enemy, into which it draws itself like a hedge-hog:---it is esteemed a great rarity.

This island abounds with cabbage-trees, which nothing can surpass in loftiness and beauty.---This tree as justly claims the superiority amongst vegetables, as *London* does over its neighbouring hamlets; they are in their prime at 30 years growth, and are from 70 to 80 feet high. There is only a tuft of leaves on the top, which is the cabbage, and to obtain it you must cut down the tree, which is hollow, and an incision may be made with
a knife

a knife :---it is excellent boiled, but more agreeable when pickled.

I one day had an inclination to wander into the woods to gather oranges : but finding them so impenetrably thick and difficult to pass,---came to a small river, where I stripped off my cloaths, and waded a mile or two, without a sight of any thing human,---being resolved to penetrate some miles into the country by this method ; I continued on, when to my astonishment, on the side of the bank I found a little hovel, inhabited by a man, a dog, a cat, and some fowls ; he received me with a silent politeness, and handed me into his hut ; the age and gravity of his countenance commanded respect :---I was sometimes inclined to speak, being divided in my opinion whether he was an Indian or a European : at length after a ceremonious pause, he broke silence in French,---which astonished me as much as his appearance. “ He told me he had lived that solitary life near one and twenty-years, without having conversed with any thing human :---he said the Indians (would sometimes) when hunting, call on him and give him part of the game they had taken, and shave off his beard with their knives ; but he had never paid attention

tention enough to their language to converse in it. His amusements for the time, had been gathering fruit, planting corn and seeking shell fish in the river,---with which, and the blessing of God, he was content, not coveting the palaces and tables of monarchs, for prayer and solitude he preferred before the bustle, vice and luxury of the world." When I asked him the cause of his retirement, he hung his head and wept---then continued : " A party quarrel happened amongst the priests of *Martinique*, in which he was a chief; ---but the superior disputants dreading the consequences of some particular tenets he advanced,---had him seized one night and landed on this island." I offered to take him to Europe,---which he politely refused,----declaring, " He would rather live in that solitude than with the *Grand Monarch* :---here (says he) I offend no man, and no man offendeth me,---and when I die,---I trust, these mountain savages will have charity enough to bury me." Thus discoursing, we returned down the river, and at our tents we gave him tools, cloaths, food &c. with which he happily retired.---I hope the Indians will have patience to wait his death, for they must be heirs to his dog, his cat his tools, and maple-dish ;---but things of this kind will stimulate

late a savage to perpetrate a murder as soon
as gold will us;--but, Heaven protect this
poor hermit !

O CURIOSITY ! you led me first
To the poor Hermit's little peaceful hut,
Where savage feet had only trod before.
Steep was the pathless bank, and by it roll'd
A sleepy stream to wed the briny flood.
Four posts bore up th' inwoven'd hurdle roof,
And porous canes received his unclad limbs
In sleep ; and when he dream'd, the silent
woods
Heard all his dreams but Heaven all his
pray'rs.
A faithful dog watched faithful by his side,
And shew'd more love more gratitude to
him,
Than he as man, had ever known from man.
O blush ! and learn fidelity from brutes ;
Dogs have been true, to men who have been
brutes !
One knew ULYSSES †, when unknown at
home,
And leaping up for joy with joy expir'd.
Around the hut the painted chanticler
Sounded

† *Argus*, a faithful dog, who was the only
servant that knew his master, after his long absence
at the siege of *Troy*.

Sounded his wings, and crow'd his early
song :

Th' ungrateful cat here pur'd in vain for mice,
To keep in exercise her savage claws :
For all was solitude and peace.-----

From this place we shall proceed on a
cruise off *Martinique*, from whence I hope to
send you some account of our good success.

I am &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXVIII.

To H. M. Esq ;

St. Kits, June 13, 1757.

ALTHO' we sail this day with 170 sail of ships for *England*, yet I nevertheless write to you, imagining they may delay our passage. In nine months cruizing, our success has only been three prizes, for which I've received about three pounds :---thus enriched and honoured, we leave these islands, and yet before we absolutely depart, I must give you a general character of these people. The *Creoles* are a volatile, haughty, ignorant people ; fond of dress, pomp and pageantry, and slaves to all the *Cardinal Vices* : we, who defend them from the insults of the enemy, are deemed foreigners, and all the respect they pay to the *Mother Country*, they call coming to *England* coming home. In *Antigua* and *Barbados*, an officer seldom escapes publick affronts, which if he resents they are ready to accept the challenge, yet prudent in never keeping the appointment : but, I believe, these feuds have been heightened by the controversies which have subsisted between them and Mr. Frankland.---The women, in general

M neral

neral unhappily cherish a low pride; few are acquainted with good breeding,---and more unacquainted with modesty.---Swearing in a vulgar corrupted dialect at their slaves is general; never unmasking in the streets to a *foreigner* general, and ogling and intriguing no where more common: which in a great measure may be attributed to the men, who carry on amours with their ladies slaves, and the less private, the more *degagé* and genteel. I cannot forbear sending you a few lines written here, in answer to Mr. ULTON's verses in praise of these people.

THE CREOLE.

To see a tyrant in an abject state,
Too mean to live, aspiring to be great,
Does it not shock the truly nobler mind,
To see such monsters mingl'd with mankind!
Thus have I seen a wood of spreading trees,
Strip'd of their foliage by the autumnal breeze,
Their leaves by various winds puff'd every
way,
And mixt promiscuous, wither and decay.

There turn, my MUSE, and view that
funny hill,
Where whispering zephyrs turn a little mill!
There

There view the sons of Afric's golden shore,
 Drove by the lash, and working in their gore :
 There view the *Creole* ruling with a nod,
 The man forgetting, struts a *Demi-god* !
 Forbear ye western sons, nor thus despise
 The slave you make, whom Heaven made as
 wise !

“ God with an equal eye beholds us all,
 “ The planter perish, or the negro fall !”
 Had Heaven bestow'd you an imperial ray,
 Would Heaven have hid it in plebeian clay ?
 O wretched pride ! spun thro life's wretched
 span ;
 Is not the slave, tho' black, a Heaven form'd
 man ?

Do not the breezes, which refresh proud you,
 Visit the hut, and fan the negro too ?
 Does nature, *Creole*, own thy empty sway,
 Will not an ass before a CÆSAR bray ?
 O cease, vain reptile, give the black his due,
 “ The world was made for Scots and NE-
 GROES too !

Are they not forced in chains from *Gambia's*
 shore
 By you to taste of LIBERTY no more ?
 But should we ask, ‘ How came *Mac Duggle*
 here ?

Mute rests the tongue, and thunder-struck's
 the ear :

Obnoxious to the law for some damn'd crime,
He flies from *England* to some savage clime.
With an impartial eye survey the two,
The captive negro's just---but what are you?
Shame, like a whirlwind, swallow up your
pride,
Or Heaven, from better men, your clan di-
vide.

But how could ULTON prostitute his mule,
To praise an isle, unworthy his abuse!
To praise a frothy, wretched race, earth's
scum,
And seat an Angel with an *Absalom*!
I love the poet, but the theme in rhyme,
Is much beneath the *Prior* of the time.

We are happily setting sail from this land,
--to one flowing with milk and honey.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R XXIX.

To H. M. Esq.

Embden, December 24, 1757.

I DON'T know any situation in life, where the character, fortune and reputation of youth, are so deeply and unfairly staked, as at a publick examination. It cannot be called a true and just trial of genius and ability,---when impudence and ignorance succeed, where modesty and capacity fail. These truths are but too obvious in all places of publick examination, particularly in our *Colleges*: or dulness and licentiousness could never crawl with such rapid success to our pulpits. A formal pedantic examination, as established for many years, is often neglected and despised by some peculiar students: Sir *Isaac Newton* was a very particular instance, and was near being expelled for his want of knowledge in the *classicks*, tho' that happy ignorance raised him above all the astronomical wits in the world. I knew one of the first rate geniuses of the present age, one of the greatest ornaments to literature, baffled by the sudden command, "Translate into Latin
" one of your own periodical papers!"--tho' at the same time his abilities were as transcen-

dently superior to his examiners as SHAKESPEARE to *Stephen Duck*. Publick examinations of all kinds are venal and abused ; ignorance and interest will go before sense and merit, and impudence before both. The first institution of publick examinations were intended for a publick good, to prevent dullness and ignorance occupying these particular departments, established and designed for men of sense and erudition : but we now find, in spite of such methods---that dunces may obtain a mitre, and *Lubbers**, maritime commissions.---It is true that I have obtained my diploma from the court of *Neptune*,---but I hope not like those given in Scotland where you purchase A. M. without the gift of either reading or writing : I cannot boast of abilities, but I can repeat with gratitude my thanks for the *lieutenancy* you have obtained me. We arrived here in the *Jason* on the 19th. instant, with Brudenell's regiment, to reinforce this garrison, which was abandoned by 10,000 French the day before, absolutely intimidated with the thoughts of English forces, *Embden* is the capital of *Emdelant*, of East *Friezeland*, in the circle of *Westphalia*, subject to the king of *Prussia*, and taken from the Dutch. The town is situated up a small river which falls into the river Ems ; behind it is a large basin for shipping, where

* A term for a dull sailor.

where they are laid up in the winter and repaired. It is an extensive city, and well fortified ; the houses lofty, and built in the gothic taste ; the streets are narrow, and irregularly paved, and through the center of them runs a fine canal, embellished with a number of airy light bridges. It is surprising to me, how this country has been so long secured from a total inundation : what astonishment must possess the mountaineer, when he sees the surface of the water many feet higher than the land ? and here the breaking down of a bank occasions as great a consternation, as a mad bull breaking in among the London citizens at high 'change time. The Friezelanders (who call themselves Prussians, as being the subjects of the Prussian monarch) are a stout robust hearty people ; well made and handsome. The women are, in general little, round shouldered and very plain ; and altho' they are fair and fresh coloured, yet it is a fairness that falls greatly short of the English. The dress of the ladies is neat and much like the other provinces of *Holland*. They wear flat caps, and forehead cloths, which hide that little beauty they are blest with, and instead of high heeled shoes, they wear noisy rattling slippers. The only pleasing situation I have seen them in, is coming to market on
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(132)

the ice, where men and maids promiscuously follow with great steadiness and swiftness, to dispose of the produce of their farms. The French have committed great ravages about this place, and have exacted large sums of money from the inhabitants; in some places, even wantonly and most inhumanly murdering men women and children.

I am, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R X X X .

To H. M. Esq.

Lisbon, December 14, 1758.

I H A V E now made a most agreeable change from a passage vessel to a real man of war. In short, Sir, I have quitted the *Jason*, where we had not one hope of the golden fleece for the *Dorsetshire*, where we have every expectation, and are bound on a second expedition to *Colchis*, without any danger from *Medea's* charms. I need not tell you this ship took the *Raisnable*, commanded by the prince *De Maubasan*; an action, that has been related in every village with glory to the victors, and with so much honour to Mr. *Denis* and his officers, that a repetition from me may wear the air of adulation, tho' every encomium would fall infinitely short of that praise due to them. Our cruises against the *Brest* fleet have hitherto proved unsuccessful, and our disappointments encreased by the narrow escape of a stout squadron from *Quebec*,---and yet we have retaken the *Winchelsea*, which seperated from them about 50 leagues to the westward of *Ushant*, taken by eight sail of the line in her passage from *Carolina*. The
making

making reprisals before the declaration of war, has made prizes, so very scarce in these seas, that notwithstanding we have crossed the bay of *Biscay* seven times, we have not intercepted one French ship; in which cruises our provisions being expended, we came into the river *Tagus* to refit and victual. LISBON*, the metropolis of the kingdom of *Portugal*, is situated on the north bank of the *Tagus*, about twelve miles from the entrance of the river: but alas! how is it fallen from that elegance, and magnificence it boasted before the earthquake: ere that melancholy ruin and catastrophe, it might vie with the fairest cities in Europe; and by the appearance it now makes in ruins from the opposite shore, it is easy to imagine how superb it must have been when erected and in order. The greatest curiosities were confined to the churches, convents, and nunneries, of which there were forty-five parish churches, twenty-two convents of monks, friars, and Jesuits, with their churches, and twenty nunneries with their peculiar churches, besides the college of *St. Antaon*, and the English and Irish colleges. These churches, in general, were elegant and richly adorned with curious valuable paintings, laced

* In the latitude of $38^{\circ} 42'$ North, and longitude $8^{\circ} 53'$ East of London.

jaced furniture, lamps, candlesticks, images, crucifixes, and many of the altars were porphyry, massy gold, or silver; but of these surprising edifices, with all their wealth there is now but *St. Rocque's* and the *King's Chapel* standing. The children of *Ignatius of Loyola* have the convent and church of *Saint Rocque's*, which church is accounted the most spacious, elegant and rich in the kingdom. The altar in this edifice is of massy gold; the steps and pavement of the finest porphyry: ---over the former---is *Saint John* baptizing *Jesus Christ* in the river of *Jordan*,---which is expressed in marble, most curiously inlaid: ---the face, the drapery, &c. exceed the most masterly finished paintings I ever saw.---The *King's chapel*, is near the palace, and is the Cathedral of the Patriarchate of *West Lisbon*; it has peculiar privileges and solemnities, which are performed by a patriarch, who officiates like a *Pope*, attended by four and twenty cardinals robed: nothing can surpass the harmony of this church, for the best musicians are selected from amongst the natives, nor is any price spared to invite them from *Italy*. This beautiful city was originally fortified by a *Moorish* wall, flanked by seventy-seven towers, some of which are now standing. *Lisbon* now measures, in its ruins a-
long

(136)

long the river side from the gate of *Alcantara* to *Xebregas*, six miles, and 14 in circumference ; ---but as the present king does not intend to rebuild it, but to erect a new city at *Belem*, it will be, in a short time, as much in length as circumference. Nothing can equal the melancholy of this dreary place,---nor can any one person describe or relate to you half its miseries and misfortunes.

I am, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXXI.

To L. L. Esq.

Lisbon, December 15, 1758.

MY dear friend, the pen of immortal *Dryden* could not convey those terrible scenes we are presented with here : such havock, such devastation and ruin, the eye never beheld ; and yet from its elevated situation, it may with propriety be called even lovely in death. The town and ruins stand on seven distinct hills :---the streets are narrow and very steep,---which makes it very inconvenient for the passage of carriages ;---therefore all kinds of heavy laborious work is done with panniers, borne by mules and asses :---the ladies pay their visits in chaises, or rather litters, and the gentlemen in the most pompous *manage* manner, ride on horseback from house to house (and to do them justice, with ease and elegance. The houses of the citizens are very mean, with lattice windows ; they are built prodigious high, and contain a number of families, for the Portugueze seldom occupy more than one room ; and notwithstanding this earth quake

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has

has involved them in such ruin, yet still such pride, sloth and ignorance possess them, that if they proceed no faster in proportion than they have already done, it will be two centuries before they clear away the rubbish, and restore *Lisbon* to its ancient glory. The ruins are so u conceivable, that I don't think it possible to convey to you any idea of their horror. The old city is entirely demolished, where you may walk for miles together without seeing one compleat house: sometimes you are presented with the shell of a most noble edifice, with the roof fallen in and the floors broke through, with some appearance of the most costly furniture and paintings. It is impossible there can be a more melancholy walk, than through these dreary streets (for they are cleared for the passage of people as before.) It appears on each side like a ruinous churchyard strewed with skulls and bones. But the present horrors are trivial, if we recollect those at the unhappy time, when fire raged in general through the town,---when the earth swelled and rolled like a confused irritated sea, ---and the people reeled about like drunken men, unable to support themselves on their legs. In this miserable time, the poor wretches fled different ways for safety,---some to their churches to implore protection of their saints, where thousands, of the same faith, shared

shared the same fate. At this time the custom-house quay was the strongest building in the city, where upwards of 2,000 people assembled for security,---or hoping to reach the shipping :---but, alas, how soon were all their hopes abolished !---for the place on which they stood sunk down,---and was immediately covered over with water,---there being now upon that spot 50 feet---It is surprizing what indolence sleeps in the veins of the *Portuguese* : upon such an alarming occasion, when life was so immediately in danger,---one would imagine men would be uncommonly active to save themselves ;---but upon this quay every man sunk with his cloak about him,---nor was there a hat or any one trifling thing ever seen on the surface of the water.---The chasm was perhaps some hundreds of fathoms deep, but the earth closing suddenly upon them, might prevent even the rising of any light body with the water. Such scenes of poverty and horror no place ever produced ; ---families who the other day lived in wealth and luxury beg about the streets---I have been accosted by a lady for my charity, with four black slaves following her, in the most polite manner. at the same time she pleaded with dignity, that the misfortunes of her family arose from the earthquake.

I am, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXXII.

To G. T. Esq.

Lisbon, December 20, 1758.

ALTHOUGH the earthquake has occasioned such ruin and devastation, yet it has given liberty to many who otherwise would never have enjoyed that happy blessing—Upon the first alarm the doors of different nunneries were thrown open and some hundreds of fair young nuns have entirely made their escapes to other countries. Many of them are the daughters of the noblest families, and for their detection great premiums are publickly offered. Some parts of the inquisition are destroyed, but I fear their charity never extended to relieve those confined there. The numbers killed by the registers of the different churches, are 80,000, by computation 150,000.

But of all the moving melancholy tales related of this earthquake, nothing can equal the situation of the French ambassador's daughter : she was found in the ruins of her father's house almost expiring, and so situated, that they could no ways disengage her from
the

the place she was fixed in, but by making an amputation above each knee ; she is now living and beautiful in misfortune.

The edifices of the *Dutch* and *English* have received the least damages, but the *Portuguese* priests were very assiduous to destroy them,---by declaring to the king of *Portugal*, ---That the God of Heaven had afflicted his people with this calamity,---for the sins committed by the hereticks he admitted to reside in this city. His majesty who is neither divine, philosopher, or politician, most *wisely* replied,---“ It is plain the judgement’s upon “ them,---when their structures and possessions are entire---and yours level with “ the ground.”

Ever since this melancholy affair,---the priests have been aiming at the destruction of the *English* merchants, and will in time accomplish it, if the court of *London* does not exert itself in their favour.

Here is a nunnery still entire, belonging to the *English* Roman-catholicks of the order of *Saint Bridget*,-----originally settled at *Sion* house near *Brentford*, of which they boast : but at the extirpation of them, they transmigrated and settled in *Portugal*, and if times should ever change in their favour, this (they
N 3 think)

think) will prove the justness of their right to the seat of the present *Earl of Northumberland*.

They shew you an image of the blessed virgin, which (they say) some divine messenger one night transported from *Sion* to *Lisbon*. at the pure and pious ejaculation of the lady abbess.

There is no doubt but *Sion* has been originally a nunnery, and that a monastery of friars was founded at *West Shene*, on the opposite side of the river *Thames*: for it is evident these bodies had, and will ever have a religious communication: a demonstration of which may be every day seen by visiting *Sion* house, where you will find a subterraneous passage under the river *Thames*, upwards of a mile in length,--extending from the original nunnery to a friary. I am told the damp^s are now so great, by neglecting to keep the passage open, that it is difficult to preserve lights to go through.---You see

Priests, like *Alpheus*, by some secret sluice,
Will steal *sub terra* to their ARETHUSE.

Farewell.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXXIII.

To H. M. Esq ;

Lisbon, December 22, 1758.

THERE is no country, let the people in general be ever so despicable,---but something may be learnt from them,---and if one people are more ignoble than another,---surely the *Portugueze* are the most so. But what I want to observe to you is the order of their markets,---which if we imitate, must prove a general good to the commonwealth. The *Reibera*, or fish market, is beyond any other I have seen in the world,----for variety, cheapness, and goodness. Adjoining to it on the east side of the square *Terriero de Paco*, i. e. the palace square, is a corn market divided into different shops,---where the factors expose their grain in bins, nor are they allowed to dispose of any out of this place. The same rule is observed with the flesh,---which the butchers are not suffered to slaughter in the city, but in the fields, or at the very extent of the suburbs : the shambles are built small and regular, and lined with clean Dutch tiles ; and these markets

kets, as well as these for poultry, garden-stuff, fruit and other eatables, are all examined by the *City Council*, and the *Office of Health*, who have a power to destroy whatever is not good, and fix daily the price of every thing,---which is marked over all the stalls ; so the person who goes to market, pays the settled price, without altercation or trouble, and takes his meat. Was this happy custom generally established in the city of London, the poor might live, and the rich enjoy delicacies without fraud or imposition. I have found no other manners or customs among the *Portuguese*, worthy imitation ; a general abolition of taste and literature reign thro' the kingdom, which makes it the more surprising when we consider the many seminaries which are founded for studious application and solitude. Philosophy is the principal study pursued in their monastries ; from whence one would imagine, *Portugal* would produce the greatest philosophers in the world ;---if man possesses genius, nothing can help it so much as regularity and sobriety ; and to appearances nothing can exceed the simplicity of their diet. But alas ! there is very little religion, sense, or virtue amongst them :---the priesthood are the most flagitious and abandoned of mankind ;---for all their sanctity

sanctity consists in shaved heads, bare feet and woollen garments, and such it must ever be, while Portugal adopts the subsequent maxim: *Fear the man that thinks, the man that reads and the man that writes*,----The following laconick character of these people, was (with justness) given me by an English lady who resides here. “ The *Portugueze*, said she, “ are peacocks in the streets, slovens in their “ own houses, gluttons at other wen’s tables, “ and thieves and dunces from the cradle to “ the grave.” The ignorance of the people, in general, is greatly owing to the villany of the clergy, who fill them with superstition to keep them in awe, and deprive them of all the advantages of education. You never meet in any state, potentate, or republick a *Portugueze* of any exalted abilities :---they seem and are an outcast of the world,---and if ever they possess the smallest talents, they are devoted and exercised in murder, thefts and lust.

The kingdom of *Portugal* is most undoubtedly governed by the clergy; they possess and enjoy every thing, and are certainly the only class who with truth can be said to live: they lead the whole nation through such superstitious paths, that the rich cannot retain their wealth, when the church stands in need
of

(146)

of it. Indeed their appearance does credit to the public who maintains them, for no Roman Catholicks can excel their ecclesiastic fat and jollity; nor hath *Venus* and *Bacchus* truer or stricter votaries, for the nun and the bottle are their sole objects of real adoration.

I am, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXXIV.

To L. L. Esq.

Lisbon, December 24, 1758.

IT grieves me to be continually writing, without having it in my power to say any thing in praise of these people :---they are slaves from the nature of their government, and the tyranny of the clergy renders them at once the most abject wretches in the world. They are proud amidst poverty, and indolent, though starving in a country which will almost cultivate itself. Nothing can equal the serenity of this climate, and the purity of the air ; it is certainly the softest and mildest in the universe ; and tho' it inspires the weak and sickly of other nations with new life and spirits, it makes none of these happy impressions on the *Portuguese*. The men are of a morose, gloomy disposition, much given to jealousy and envy ; extremely slothful, and naturally cowards :---the only polite qualification they can boast, is dancing a minuet well. Summer or winter they wear the same cloak ; in the cold weather to keep them warm, and
when

when hot to keep the heat out. Swords and embroidery some years ago were universally wore, till an edict passed to suppress them ; at the same time confining the men to the wear of black cloaths. This hath proved a most prudent prohibition, for the men spent all their fortunes in foppery, while their families were feeding on oil and *Sardinias** at home. Bag-wigs are even more used here than in *France* ;---I've seen a blacksmith shoe a mule in one. The men are very vain of their military abilities, without that cardinal qualification, prowess ; and, altho' without courage, will presumptively assert, that their army and the maritime power of *England* would conquer the world. Alas ! they do not merit the very name of soldiers,---and to make them worse, they seldom or ever receive any pay,---which makes them beg under arms. I have seen a captain of horse go most sumptuously dressed to market, there buy a pound of beef, fold it up in his handkerchief, put it in his hat, and then strut away with it under his arm, with all the pomp and impudence of a *Portuguese*. It don't appear to me that, that there are any people fit to bear arms, but the clergy ; especially if there is any thing in the
size

* A small fish like a sprat.

size or appearance or soldiers, or even if arms require strength to wield them. But what a figure must they cut before an enemy, if instead of arms they have only recourse to reliques and images,---for they won't march a step unless some stock of a Saint is bore in the van to head their cause. A few days ago, a terrible fire broke out, and the only method they took to extinguish it, was by throwing in their reliques and saints by way of holy fuel:---some English seamen passing by, attempted to put it out, which they resented, and pelted them away for their heretical presumption ; so the fire continued raging in spite of prayer and promises of penance and would have destroyed an hundred houses, had not some *English* merchants solicited a body of seamen to extinguish it,---which they soon performed to the amazement of these deluded fools. I often divert myself at the window, with a priest begging of the country people as they come to market, for departed souls detained in purgatory : some bestow an orange, some an onion, some a clove of garlick, and some more generously a turnip,---for which he gives in return an infallible benediction, and then staggers to his monastery under the load. The whore of Babylon refuses nothing,

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---and

--and of all concubines in the universe, she is the worst. I really believe I shall leave *Portugal* with a worse opinion than Lord *Tyrawley* did :---he said, he knew but two gentlemen in the kingdom,---the French ambassador, and friar Austin of the English nunnery ; which are certainly two more than I have the happiness to be acquainted with.

I am, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXXV.

To Miss E. T.

Lisbon, December 27, 1758.

YESTERDAY I was dancing at a villa in the country, and my partner was a young lady of fifteen, just come out of the nunnery :---it would have given you much pleasure to have seen the difference between a free and confined education :---she did not appear to know the common objects of life, the use of words or feet :---she never spoke ; and when she danced, she walked in in a most solemn manner, with her eyes fixed on the ceiling,---as if she had no other idea than prayer and confession :---but, indeed she was beautiful to admiration, which amply compensated for that peculiar awkwardness attained by a recluse life. She had the whiteness of the lilly, and the blushes of the rose : her stature was low, and her hair, which was jet black, was braided with ribbands, and flowed in ringlets to the ground. With this young goddess I passed the happiest silent meeting of my life, but had it been improved by conversation,---it must have been enchantment ; for nothing but divine rhetoric could

have flowed from the mouth of such a HEBE. Upon this occasion we had an elegant cold collation, but being a religious fast with the irreligious *Portuguezs*, they were obliged to regale themselves *privately* in the pantry, while we enjoyed the repast in publick ; but to have immediate absolution for eating of *forbidden-fruit*,---they took care to have a friar to partake with them ;---who enjoyed the luxury with the calmest conscience, while they stuffed and trembled for fear of divine vengeance, ---This beautiful young lady was the daughter of a nobleman, and is since married.---The ladies are, in general, extremely handsome, with all that delicacy peculiar to the fair sex ; their complexions are chiefly brown, their faces round, their eyes black and sparkling :---but alas ! all these beauties are soon destroyed by that abominable custom of painting, which is practised here to excess. Their natural temper is gay and chearful ; but yellow eyed jealousy, which is so very predominant in the men,---makes them appear grave in company, though their inclinations are ever so contrary. Their chastity in general, is great,---but they never receive a visit from a single gentleman unless their intentions are to intrigue. Their dress is a mixture of the French, Spanish and Italian,---but their peculiar pride lies in the ornament of their hair, which

which is braided and adorned with a number of tortoise-shell combs. The present queen seems to be the *Amazon* of the world : her time is entirely devoted to manly diversions, ---as shooting, hunting, and fishing---in which exercises she is so perfect a *DIANA*, that few men can exceed her. I heard a Yorkshire gentleman declare, the severest day's hunting he ever passed was with her :---she will kill on horseback of single birds, eighty brace of partridges in a day,---and in fishing she is equally expert.-----But notwithstanding sylvan amusements are pursued by the king and queen of *Portugal*, they do not extend to the rest of the people. In short she is so much the buskin'd goddess, that I think the extraordinary courage and equestrian exploits of your celebrated *Di Draper*, could entitle her to no other place of honour,---than an attendant nymph to this royal huntress.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

To L. L. Esq.

Lisbon, December 28, 1758.

T^HERE are no states but have more or less suffered from *Favourites*, and here the machinations of a favourite pimp,---had nearly ruined king and kingdom. This pander was employed by his late majesty, and being excellent in the art of intrigue, was continued by the son, and for his services is since raised to places of the most important trust. This active Mercury, being ever studious to find new objects of gallantry for his royal master, created the jealousy of the queen who has more than once attempted to assassinate him. Every body appears petrified in *Lisbon*, staring at one another with the strangest consternation, without having courage to speak their sentiments on so dreadful a subject: even Englishmen, who have the freedom of speech every where, seem tacit on this theme. ---The troops are called from the frontiers to surround the city, and a general embargo is laid upon all shipping, that none of the assassins may escape. An attempt to make a revolution in the kingdom of *Portugal*, does not

in

in the least surprize me, when we consider how ill the state has been managed, and what feuds have lately subsisted : his majesty's confidence being solely placed in the breast of a man who was his father's porter ;--- carrying on new amours with ladies of the first dignity ; neglecting the business of the common weal in general, and retarding the pay of the army eighteen months ; these, added to a thousand other grievances, have been the cause of this intended assassination and revolution. The time fixed for the perpetration of this murder, was in the close of the evening, when the king was returning incog with his *Pandarus*, from some sweet *Cressida*,---(who is certainly a very near relation of the duke *D'Aviero*.) His chaise was stopped by three men on horseback,---when the postillion answered, 'it is the king : '---to which they replied---"It is what we want ;"---and immediately discharged a pistol, which passed through the chaise without doing any injury ; ---the second wounded the favourite in the breast, who fell to the bottom,---and the king, to save himself from the fire, sunk down upon him, but holding still by one of the tassels, the third ball went through his right arm. Having only three servants with him, one of them had stopped to water his horse, but hearing the reports of the pistols, rode

rode briskly up, and pursuing them, came near enough to distinctly discern one of the duke's horses. The scheme was well concerted, and might have been more fatal to the king, but a blunderbuss missed fire which was carried by the duke. This very evening the duke *D'Aveiro* gave a most splendid ball to the nobility,---and in the height of their mirth and gaiety, left the room, changed his dress and disappeared.---The discovery of this affair is very singular:---a cobbler, who had long courted one of the under servants, embraced this night of hurry, as a more favourable time to see his mistress;---but being in one of the rooms through which the duke must pass, and hearing him suddenly advance, and not having time to escape, they secreted themselves under a large table. Upon the duke's coming in, he threw down the blunderbuss, saying,---“Thou hast failed me
“in the most critical moment of my life.” To which his confederates replied,---“Your
“grace need not be uneasy, we certainly dispatched all that were in the chaise.” The duke then dressed, and returned with the same appearance of gaiety to his company,---and relieved the lovers from their place of confinement. The cobbler hearing the next day of the affair, and recollecting the particular conduct and words of the duke, related the
circumstances

circumstances to a father confessor, upon which the duke, and his family, and many of the nobility were immediately apprehended and their goods confiscated:----amongst which were a stand of 4000 arms. This scheme of assassination was certainly planned by the *Jesuits*, and the duke *D'Aviero* was to have been immediately crowned, for the troops on the king's death would have revolted to a man; and by a vessel just arrived from the *Brasils*, we learn that the *Jesuits* are so certain of the revolution, that they have even declared the duke king of *Portugal &c.* This intelligence has given the king and the ministry such fresh alarms, that they seem determined to extirpate the whole race. When halcyon days will return among these unhappy people, I cannot tell,---but seas of blood will be spilt,---and many bleed though innocent, as

Your, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXXVII.

To H. M. Esq.

Lisbon, January 1, 1759.

THE 13th. of February is fixed for the melancholy execution of the unhappy family of the duke *D'Aveiro*, with many other principal nobles of *Portugal*, without respect to age, persons, or sex. A subterraneous inquisition too, is just finished, at which no person has been suffered to work, without first taking the oaths of secrecy, where invention has been wrecked to establish the most cruel tortures,---which some hundred of these unhappy people will privately suffer. The place of public execution is to be at *Belem*, where the duke *D'Aveiro*, the marquis of *Tavora*, his son, his wife, children, and some others are to be racked singly,---that each may suffer from the horrors endured by the child and parent: the scaffold is erected opposite to the place of their confinement, where eight wheels are fixed for their execution. The marchioness of *Tavora* is to be beheaded; the young marquis of *Tavora*, the count of *Atouguia*, and three servants, are to be strangled at the stake, and their limbs afterwards broken.

broken. The duke *D'Aveiro* and the marquis of *Tavora*, are to have their limbs broke alive, and two ladies near relations to this unhappy family, have died raving mad in the convent *Das Grilas*.

The prevention of this assassination has been fortunate to the reigning family, and tho' the execution of the assassins will be cruel, dreadful and bloody, nevertheless it does not occasion even a whisper here, when with you it would make a riotous murder.---The duke *D'Aveiro* is a well made little man, lively and agreeable, and in the 51st. year of his age.---The marquis of *Tavora*, who is sprung from the most illustrious family of Portugal, is about 55; genteel, middle stature, of a comely countenance and grave.---The marchioness of *Tavora* his wife, is thin and short, easy and courteous in her behaviour, and affectionate to her husband, children and family: she bears the character of an amiable woman a good mother and a lady of great understanding. In her 50th. year she attended the marquis to *India*, and in her 59th dies with her husband.---The two sons of this unhappy aspiring couple, one aged 36, the other 23, suffer with their parents.---The earl of *Atouguia* is a furly disagreeable man, about 36 years of age, and married in the
Tavora

Tavora family. If you knew how dangerous it was to speak here, you would be the more surprised to find me acquainted with so many particulars relative to these conspirators. We have been detained by the king many days longer than the commodore intended staying, ---by way of awing the rebels; and to be sure, were our canon required, we could in a few hours level that, unhook by the earthquake; but the fruit belonging to the merchants being long packed, and subject to damage, the commodore has determined, for the sake of the cargoes, to depart,---at the same time leaving three ships of war to protect the port. The departure is no ways disagreeable to me, for I can safely say, I bid adieu to capital, theft, murder, ignorance and ruin.

I am, &c.

P. S. The noblest, useful piece of architecture in this country, is the aqueduct, which convey all the water used in the city upwards of ten miles: the arches are built in a conic form, and the center one is big enough to let the *Royal George* pass through under sail. It has received very little damage from the earthquake.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

To H. M. Esq ;

Off the Port of Brest,

July 23, 1759.

YESTERDAY, early in the morn,
we were most agreeably surprized with
the sight of four French men of war, under
the land ; but falling calm, it prevented a
general action. Mr. Hervey, in the Mon-
mouth, received and returned several broad-
sides ;---but the enemy's ship grounding, and
he being under the fire of three batteries, was
obliged to come off to save his ship.---No of-
ficer in the king's service could acquit himself
with greater gallantry upon the occasion, nor
behave with more vigilance and assiduity.
These four ships of war were intended to pro-
tect eight transports to *Goree*. We are now
anchored in the road off *Brest*, with all the
ease and composure you can conceive men to
have, whose most ardent wishes are to try
their strength with their foe :---we ride in the
sight of four French flags, and 13 sail of line
of battle ships,---and offer such daily insults
on their own dunghill, that were they men
P of

of courage,---they would fight, tho' sure of losing the victory : but upon my word, I believe it would perplex human invention, to find a sufficient provocation to make them come to action. Every news-paper which is brought out here,---is filled with sarcasms and abuse of us---for bad conduct, &c. tho' at the same time nothing can surpass Sir Edward Hawke's vigilance, and no French admiral his courage and judgment. Every time you hear that we are to the northward of *Ushant*,---the city cries out, " What can they be doing, to give " the French such an opportunity to come " out ? " ---not considering or knowing at this time it blew a storm from the west. These gentlemen should be a little more acquainted with geography and navigation, before they commit their opinions to the press : they should consider with a westerly wind, it is necessary to keep the English channel open, for fear of wrecking this fleet on the coast of France,---and likewise, that that very wind prevents the stirring of any ship in *Brest* water. Indeed your city sailors are quite as ignorant as the noble personage, who asked Sir *Walter Raleigh*, " Whether he made his ship fast to a " tree in the night." ---Tho' you truly think upon this fleet your lives and fortunes depend, yet to support the people in it, you have at last considered

considered fresh provisions are necessary :---it is a pity this charitable thought did not occur sooner,---for alas ! we are very sickly ; besides, there is such an abuse in the provisions sent out,---that immediately on their arrival, a third part have been condemned not fit to eat. This arises from venal contracts and bribery, which makes it absolutely necessary for the government to appoint men of sworn integrity to inspect into every thing, before shipped by agents and contractors. You may be certain a cruize with all these inconveniences and inactivity, must be tedious and disagreeable, and would be more so, were we not amused with the passing and repassing of ships to and from England. I give you maritime scribble enough to weary the patience of any man, and yet we have nothing else to write, for nothing else occurs ;---and to fill a letter up with duty, love, and compliment, would be only writing what is daily written from every village in England.---This nautick epistle was begun the 23d of July, and had not been finished the 2d of August, if Prince *Edward* had not come out in the *Hero*.---We received him yesterday, with all those military honours due to his illustrious birth and rank,---and with that peculiar pleasure which the subject must feel for a prince, whose qualities

render him the admiration of all the world. ---We are not a little proud of a king's brother being a midshipman ; his *Royal Highness* going through the different degrees of the service, gives spirits to the whole corps,---and the attention he pays to the various duties of a fleet, will one day be the happy means of making him a glory to his country.

I am, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXXIX.

To L. L. Esq.

Off Brest at Sea, August 16, 1759.

I HAD better send you my journal at once, with the hourly occurrences of the log, as be continually troubling you with dull anecdotes from on board of ship: if we have any thing new, it is of so trifling a nature, you will scarce have patience to peruse it---and I am convinced, we can send you no news that is acceptable, but the beating of the French fleet; and your fears at home are so great---that I believe you are sometimes inclined to think, they will beat us: but if I can remove that doubt with a most faithful promise, I will, assure you on my honour and life,---when- ever they come out, we will beat them.--- There is no kind of doubt but their intentions are to invade *Ireland*;---and that the duke *D'Aguillon* has an army ready to embark from *Quiberoon* bay, as soon as the *Brest* fleet can appear to protect and convoy them. These dreadful menaces, tho' at a great distance, keep you in continual fears. For my own part, I cannot say whether *Conflans* will stir or no;---to appearances he does not seem to have much inclination;---but we have two

more objects in view, pleasing as his fleet,---and, like *Bobadil*, we will beat them all. Monsieur *Bompert* is hourly expected from the *West Indies*, and *D'Clue* is certainly out of *Toulon*,---but I fear he is sailed to the southward ;---but if they should come this way, you may depend upon it Sir *Edward Hawke* will remit you pleasing accounts of his conduct.

Alas ! my dear friend, amidst these pleasing hopes, -the most melancholy accident has just attended two young gentlemen : perhaps, such as eye never beheld before, or ear ever heard related. They were climbing up the top-mast shrouds, one above the other, to make themselves acquainted with the particular duties of the ship. Mr. Cox was the uppermost ; but losing his hold, threw down Mr. Gaven below him.---They struck with their heads upon the muzzles of the guns, and fell into the water ;---the time was very short before they were taken up, but neither of them ever spoke more. At this time I was walking the quarter-deck, and presented with this most horrid spectacle. It is impossible to tell you what I feel on the occasion, or even to describe the general grief of the ship's company, who seem to a man dejected ;---and when they speak of their misfortunes, contend who can praise their virtues most. These
young

young gentlemen were pupils of mine, in order to make them acquainted with the business of a seaman; and surely two nobler, wiser boys, never launched into the navy: had they been my brothers, I could not have loved them living more,---nor can their dearest parent lament their memories with a truer grief, or have a more exalted opinion of their virtues. In the following epitaph I have not said so much as they deserve,----and I lament that your affectionate friend is not possessed of a better pen to immortalize their virtues.

Dead, ere their prime, are LYCIDAS
And ADONIS, in vernal bloom,
Twins lovely blasted. Each young as good, and
Wise as young: as sweet as virtuous, innocent as sweet.

Both birds of

Paradise, in flight sublime, in plumage
Exquisite as song . . Why gentle cherubs did
You leave us thus? Why were your noble
forms emergent

Dash'd, from that airy eminence, to stain
with purest
Blood, the

Ruthless sea?----Say, were ye of the bright
Seraphick host; and took upon ye only mortal weeds,

To

(168)

To shew mankind how lovely angels are, and
make
Them quit the world,
For God?

Parents, if readers on this stone
Retain the kindred tear : think
What a present to the gods you've sent ! yet
Still 'tis but the GREAT JEVOVAH's due, 'tis
what he lent. Let this

To after ages
Be a proof, how lovely, how lamented Virtue
Is ! Blameless they breath'd, and died
A pair unparallel'd ; and with them took as
much
Goodness as could
Live.

Farewell.

L E T-

L E T T E R XL.

To G. T. Esq.

Quiberon-Bay, November 20, 1759.

I AM so full of joy and spirit at our own victory, that I can hardly be civil enough to take notice of *De Clue's* defeat,---tho' I assure you we thought we had a right to fight that gentleman, as he certainly designed to join *Conflans's* fleet: but Mr. Boscawen has saved us that trouble, and taken, with justice, our imaginary laurels to himself. The *Ocean*, commanded by *De Clue*, is on shore on the coast of *Portugal*, and he has lost one of his legs in the action: two ships of 74, and one of 64 guns are taken, and one of 84, and one of 74 guns burnt; some have escaped to *Cadiz*, and some to *Lisbon*;---but to intercept these lame ducks, we have dispatched flying squadrons to every point of the compass. It is now with the French as it is with the hares,----there is not a dog of any kind but thinks them lawful game, and that he has a right to hunt them,---and I heartily wish to have the pleasure of coursing these,---if they have courage enough to quit their *forms*. ---On Saturday the 13th of October, a strong gale of wind at west, obliged us to bear up for Plymouth,

Plymouth, from whence we sailed on the 19th,---and kept our station off the isle of *Ushant*, till November the 10th---when a second storm at west drove us to *Torbay*, from whence we sailed on the 13th, but could not keep the sea. In this restless situation, we had some intelligence of the enemy's intentions to move, and prompted with hope and anxiety, got on the 16th within seventeen leagues of *Ushant*, where the *Swallow* sloop most agreeably surprized us with the news of *Conflans's* sailing from *Brest* on the 14th, with a fleet of 21 sail of the line and 4 frigates. It is impossible for you to conceive what joy this news gave our scurvy spirits, what an alteration it made when we had the most sanguine hopes of being revenged on a fleet, that had kept us at sea eight months, and every day wishing them to come out: we call it the period of all our misfortunes,---and crown ourselves with the laurels of victory. Fired with the truest British courage, away we steered for *Belleisle*, being well assured the marshal of France meditated the destruction of Mr. Duff's squadron, which confined the vessels, intended for the transportation of the troops under the duke *D'Aguillon*, in a river contiguous to *Quiberon* bay. But how have we frustrated all their schemes this day! Discovering early in the morning this formidable *Armada* under *Belleisle*,

leisle, Sir EDWARD HAWKE gave the general signal for chace ;---when all, with equal emulation, seem'd to start for the lillies of *France*. At half an hour past two in the Afternoon, Sir John Bentley in the *Warspite* began the action,---but---at too great a distance,---when Mr. *Denis* in the *Dorsetshire* past on, reserved his fire, tho' continually cannonaded by the whole fleet, but was soon seconded by the *Resolution*, *Magnanime*, *Revenge*, *Torbay*, and *Defiance* : the contest was warm till half an hour past four, when the *These* sunk, and the *Formidable*, rear-admiral Count de Verger, struck his colours. *Conflans* in the *Soleil Royal* kept a running fire, steering directly for the shore,---and grounded before the *Royal George* could come up with her. The night coming on, Sir Edward Hawke haul'd off, when the *Superbe* sunk close to him ;--darkness prevented the fleet effecting more,---so a general signal was made to anchor.

The next morning discovered the damages done the preceding evening : the *Dorsetshire* had 13 killed and 55 wounded ; the *Resolution* dismasted on shore, also the *Effex* in endeavouring to assist her ;---the crews of both were saved, except 80 men, who went on shore on rafts ; the *Magnanime* had 15 killed and 65 wounded ;

wounded ; the *Revenge* had 8 killed and 30 wounded ;---the *Torbay* 3 killed.

Mr. *Denis*, after the action, received the particular thanks of Sir *Edward Hawke*, and the compliments of the captains of the fleet ; ---for if a distinguished courage and bravery, merit the private and public attention of mankind,---no person can have a greater right to it than himself.

One part of marshal. *de Conflans*'s conduct deserves your attention : when the count *de Verger* in the *Formidable* was warmly engaged with the flying van of Sir *Edward Hawke*'s fleet, the marshal, according to the manœuvre of the French, kept the headmost ship,---and had a distant canonading, supported by ten more, against the *Royal George* ; but the night coming on and blowing hard, he brought the *Soleil Royal* to an anchor. The next morning at the dawn of day, when he came to consider his late conduct, he judiciously, to give a gloss to his defeat, run his ship on shore, and passing close to the *Hero*, (that had submitted in the action) he fired a shot at her ;---upon which they slipped their cable, rehoisted their colours, and bravely followed their admiral on shore,---abandoning their ships to be plundered and burnt by us. This at *Paris* will

will be a sufficient theme for the most impudent gasconade ; for by a good relation it will appear he lost his own ship in the action, but before he quitted her,---he retook, by his bravery, vigilance, and activity, the vanquished *Hero*.---When we consider the marshal's pusillanimity and behaviour,---there is some judgment in this action. The division commanded by the count *de Verger* behaved very gallantly, and equal to the good example he gave them.——In the beginning of the action he was wounded, and carried from the deck,---but as soon as his wounds were dressed, he was brought up in a chair--where he was killed, and his brother, who succeeded him in the command, fell soon after him ;---the second captain also being killed,---the command devolved on the first lieutenant, who struck the colours. The bodies of these three valiant men were sent on shore by Sir *Edward Hawke*, and buried by the duke *D'Aguillon*, with all those military honours due to their exemplary characters.

I must confess I am a little ashamed for detaining you so long in reading a mere sailor's letter, especially when I can only make this apology,---that writing after a great victory, gives an intoxication only known to those who

Q

have

have fought and conquered,——and amongst the number to your friend, sailor, and humble servant, &c.

P. S. This *Postscript* anecdote shall not be tedious. When this mighty fleet left *Brest*,---all the officers were rolling about the decks with sea-sickness,----and when they came to action, were as unfit to fight as dance: they might truly say, not sing, with the duke of *Devon*,

“ What resistance can they find,

“ From men who've left their hearts and
“ *legs* behind.”

L E T T E R XLI.

To G. T. Esq.

Plymouth, December 23, 1759.

TH E honours we acquired by beating the French fleet, compensated for all the fatigues of an eight months cruize, and the dangers of the battle :---but nothing can ever be equivalent to the horrors sustained in our passage home with the *Formidable* ;---the misfortunes and distresses which afflicted the ship and crew are not to be parallel'd :---she was often sinking from the number of shot-holes received in the engagement,---dismasted by the violence of the storm, and for many hours the sport of the winds and waves :---her coppers washed away,---for want of which, her people subsisted four days on the boatswain's tallow.--When the *Dorsetshire* rejoin'd her in this melancholy situation,---she had but ten days half allowance for 500 men,---and found herself under a necessity, at that time, of assisting 1200 starved with hunger and fatigue :---but in the midst of these growing misfortunes, a favourable breeze sprung up, and brought us safe to this place,---where

the first letter gave me a shock beyond all and every melancholy woe and hardship hitherto experienced,---in the death of my uncle *Musgrave*. O my friend ! what have we lost !---- All that was great, good, honourable, or virtuous ; all that was wise, generous, and noble. A man, whose integrity of soul, whose accomplished manners, vivacity of disposition, temper, judgment, and humanity, rendered him at once the envy and the glory of his time. No person ever knew him, but loved him ; nor was his death less glorious than his life ; for every friend when living was as emulous to praise him, as when dead to lament him. The world has lost a great friend, society a greater, and individuals the greatest ;--- amongst which none shall be my rival but his widow. O George ! what is there that we possess, but to him we are indebted for it ?--- His munificence and tenderness raised us in our earliest years ; his paternal care ever watched over our education ;---and to the knowledge of the scholar, he joined the knowledge of the world, and the manners of the most accomplished gentleman : His cordial admonitions have been the happy means of steering us through this world of vice, without being a disgrace to our kindred, or a blot to society ; his friendship has raised us to the posts of honour

nour we occupy,---and, alas! I fear in his death, we lose every hope of advancement.--- There are few men living, who can boast of having such a parent,---and none excel my griefs, for the loss of every thing that the God of nature and the world could bestow. I have now nothing remaining by me, but those salutary maxims he gave me in his letters, and the lively remembrance of a man, whom few equalled, whom none excelled.--- The last admonitions I received from him were so short, and so good, that I cannot forbear repeating them to you, tho' you have often had them from his own mouth.---“ Love
 “ God above all things, your neighbour as
 “ yourself, and do unto all, as you would
 “ be done unto.---Be careful of your money,
 “ without being covetous; for remember,
 “ friends of any kind are scarce, and pecuniary
 “ ones most so;---for in this venal age you'll
 “ find few so steady to you as ten *guineas*: men
 “ love money too well to part with it; but
 “ when you spend it, let it be in better com-
 “ pany than yourself; for of all fatal rocks,
 “ avoid *low company*!” Such were the maxims he recommended and wished us to imbibe. O! I could write reams to his memory with my own tears; but all my efforts are weak, when

(178) .

I recollect they are to praise a man, who had the greatest virtues, with the fewest vices.---
Adieu, my dear friend,---and let us, to the utmost of our ability, be as steady to the orphan, as he has been to us : and as we are sensible of his good deeds and friendship, let us be equally active and attentive to those who may ever require our assistance.

Adieu.---

F I N I S.

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